

# 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.**

**HOLY FAMILY  
Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
(B)**

**31st December, 2023**

**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 Days**

**Mary Mother of God**  
*Monday*  
**MASS AT 12.000 NOON**

**Sts Basil the Great &  
Gregory Nazianzen**  
*Tuesday*

**The Most Holy Name of Jesus**  
*Wednesday*

*Happy New Year 2024*

*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: **Harper and Phoenix Fox** children of Justin and Claire; **Jarvis Patrick Kalms** son of Kenneth and Rachel.

**FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD  
THIS MONDAY ~ 1st JANUARY 2024  
MASS AT 12.00 NOON ~ ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH**



#### SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 ~ MEN'S GATHERING**  
*Further details will be available in a few weeks.*

#### 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.

#### THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

**BAPTISMS:** Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. Once applications forms are returned to the Parish Admin Office, preparation meeting and Baptism date can be confirmed.

**WEDDINGS:** In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

**ANOIDING OF THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required or phone the after hours mobile 0423 445 639

**FUNERALS:** In either church. Requiem Mass or Funeral Prayers. Church booking arrangements with Funeral Director of choice, Liturgy arrangements with our priests.

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: The Epiphany, Year B: 6th/7th January 2024**  
**Readings : Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12**

	<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>Pauline Fingleton John Jarzynski</i>	<i>Mark McDonald Damien Kennedy</i>	<i>Wendy Hughes Margaret Tay</i>	<i>Maxine Cole Maurice Gahan</i>
<b>EMOHC</b>	<i>Margaret Ellis</i>	<i>Sue Hetherington</i>	<i>Deacon Anthony Cathy Campbell</i>	<i>Leanne Robbins</i>
<b>Offertory Procession</b>			<i>Jo Hurley Joan Hollinsworth</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**  
Shari McLeish (*Orange*), Una Smith, Maureen Collings Genie Enright Bryan Kassulke Peter Dignam, Cheryl Dowdell, Peter Newport,

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS**

**TIME :** Pat Wilson, Greg Shore, Armando Bordin, Alane Atangana-Etundi, Betty Chandler

**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 ILL:** 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, Dymrna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, *Aunt* 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>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>	

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**  
will re-open this Tuesday 2nd January 2024. If you are in need of a priest please call 0423 445 639.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND**  
We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us. Lord, we raise all people in The Holy Land to you, and pray for those suffering. We ask that you provide peace in this crisis, and protection and comfort for all those who have been impacted.  
**Fr Mamdouh Abu Sada**, *Director of the School of Joy, Bethlehem*  
[www.friendsoftheholylan.org](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org)

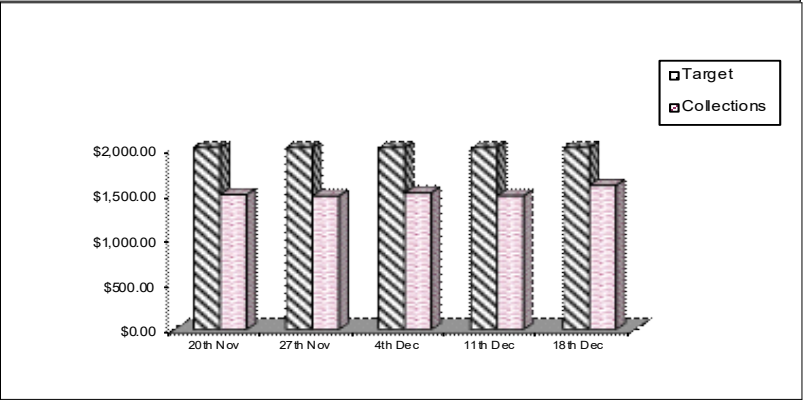
**THANK YOU to all Parishioners** for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father 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:

**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)

<b>THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS</b>		
<b>First Collection</b>	<i>Support of our Diocese Priests</i>	\$ 831.00
<b>Second Collection</b> <i>Support of the Parish &amp; Ministries &amp; School Building &amp; Maintenance Fund</i>	Loose Plate	\$ 387.00
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,585.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



## HIDDEN TREASURES

Many would have seen the 2016 movie, "Hidden Figures," which focused on the roles of three African American women mathematicians - Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson – who worked at NASA during the Mercury program. Few would have known how these three women played crucial roles in the success of John Glenn's historic spaceflight. The film highlights their struggles against racial and gender discrimination while contributing significantly to the US space program during the early 1960s. It is a powerful portrayal of their achievements and the challenges they faced in a segregated society. In today's gospel, we encounter two other "hidden" women, whose contribution to the Jesus' story is often overlooked or underestimated.

Mary, Jesus' mother is well known; but her role is often glossed over with pious niceties and elevated titles, which tell us very little about her true strength of character. In the opening chapters of Luke, Mary accepts a divine call to be the mother of Jesus, embarks on perilous quests to fulfil that vocation, and embraces a challenging vision of a coming end time revolution when paupers will displace kings (Lk 1:2).

Similarly, the elderly widow and seer, Anna, appears exercising matriarchal privilege and prophetic authority. Luke tells us that for many decades she "never left the temple, where she worshiped with fasting and prayer night and day" (Lk 2:37). This description implies that her role as a prophetess involved both religious and political activity. It is significant that she carries out this role in the Temple, the Jewish centre not only of social, political, and religious life, but also end time expectations. Like Mary, Anna "began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were expecting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38).

Anna and Mary lived in a society with its own set of challenges and expectations. As wives and mothers, one would normally expect them to be portrayed as homemakers concerned with cooking, cleaning, clothing, and childrearing. In the first century, a Jewish woman could exercise considerable freedom in domestic affairs, including managing servants in larger households. In the absence of a male authority, either through the death of her husband or other factors, a woman could govern her own affairs.

But women did not normally exercise authority in the public sphere. Even the privileged wives, widows and daughters of nobles and powerful officials could only aspire to employing influence within their immediate circles of friends and family.

Anna's very public allegiance to her faith and Mary's heroic role in pursuing her vocation were remarkable acts that broke societal norms. Anna and Mary showed strength and resilience in the face of the ruling patriarchy, and, ultimately, had a substantial impact on the subsequent events of history.

Ian J Elmer  
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**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)

### 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 4.30 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.***

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to be involved in our weekend Masses, assisting with the Offertory procession, Mass laptop operator, or being a 'welcomer' and handing out the parish bulletin, please advise the Parish Office. Perhaps you might like to help when we have our "Parish Morning teas" once a month or be a part of the music ministry. Your assistance in any of these activities will be greatly appreciated.

Contact 6681 1048 or email [admin@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:admin@sfxballina.org.au)



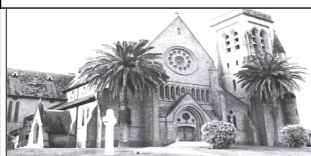
Thank you.

### 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.***



## 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: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3;**  
*A reading from the second book of Genesis*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised.

Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **(R.)**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! **(R.)**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19**  
*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

#### FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES

**MONDAY 1st JANUARY 2024 ~ FEAST ~ MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

**Communion Antiphon:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

**TUESDAY 2nd JANUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Let the peoples recount the wisdom of the Saints, and let the Church proclaim their praise.  
Their names will live on and on.

**Communion Antiphon:** We proclaim Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**WEDNESDAY 3rd JANUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** A people who walked in darkness has seen a great light; for those dwelling in a land of deep gloom, a light has shone.

**Communion Antiphon:** That life which was with the Father became visible, and has appeared to us.

**THURSDAY 4th JANUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** In the beginning and before all ages, the Word was God and he humbled himself to be born the Saviour of the world.

**Communion Antiphon:** God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

**FRIDAY 5th JANUARY**

**Entrance Antiphon:** A light has risen in the darkness for the upright of heart; the Lord is generous, merciful and just.

**Communion Antiphon:** By this the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his Only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.

#### FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

**DID YOU KNOW?** • According to Jewish Law, the first born male child of a family was dedicated to God in acknowledgment that all life comes from God. Mary and Joseph were devout and observant Jews.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS** • Most of us grow to maturity in a human family, which today may come in many shapes. Reflect on your own childhood and growth. Looking back, in what ways did this childhood encourage or discourage faith in God? Share your reflections with the group.

- What holds families together is a commitment to love and serve each other in good times and bad. This is what allows families to grow in maturity and wisdom.
- Recite Simeon's prayer often this week:

*My eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations.*

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