

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.**

**Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph
Year B**

27th December, 2020

**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**

Feasts

**Holy Innocents, martyrs
Monday**

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Friday**

They know they are loved

Abraham and Sarah, an elderly couple, who trust in God are rewarded with the unexpected gift of a son in Isaac. Jesus is also an unexpected gift to a young woman Mary and Joseph, her spouse.

Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son to show obedience to God, but Isaac is spared, and Abraham and Sarah become the parents of nations. Forty days after the birth of their child, Joseph and Mary travel to Jerusalem to carry out the requirements of the Law which asks that the mother be purified, and the child be dedicated to God. They encounter two wise people who affirm that their son is a blessing from God who will play a major role in the redemption of the people.

Current family experience is distant from these two historical families, but they also cope with the unexpected, in the birth, the raising of children and their journey through life. Contemporary families have many configurations, but all follow the developmental cycle of dependence, independence to interdependence and perhaps ultimately dependence in old age. It is a journey of many joys, some disappointments, and a variety of challenges. We all have hopes for our children and these will be fulfilled in ways that exceed or fall short of our expectations.

After the purification and presentation, the Holy Family travelled to Nazareth and we hear that Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God

was upon him.” At the age of twelve he accompanied his parents on their annual pilgrimage to the Temple for the feast of Passover. On the day of their return, Jesus “lingered” in the Temple, but Mary and Joseph thought that he was among their group.

After a day of travel, they realised Jesus was missing, so they returned to Jerusalem, and found him in the Temple in discussion with the elders. Given his age, they were amazed



at his learning. When admonished by Mary, Jesus replied: “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” “How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”

Jesus grows in maturity and finds his identity in carrying our God's will. We do not know what Mary and Joseph expected from their son,

but his public ministry, preaching, healing, death and resurrection must have been unexpected.

We do not know what direction our children will take but the greatest gift we can give them is to let them know that they are loved prior to achievement rather than because of their achievements. Secure in the knowledge of being loved, young people are free to become the people they are called to be and letting them go will enable them to return home no longer as children but as adults.

Michael A. Kelly CSsR
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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: Maureen O'Connor

AND ALSO FOR: Peter O'Connor, Hilton Kelly, Fay Kerlake, 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 (*6 weeks old*), 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, Dymrna 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.

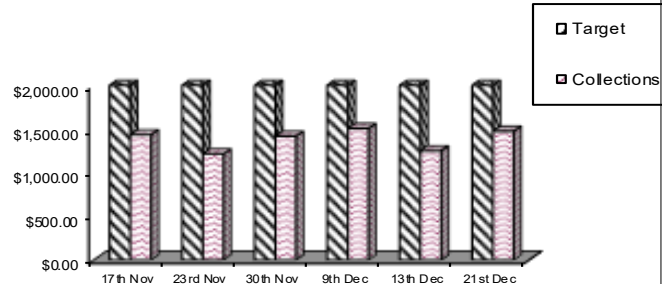
MASKS: It is recommended by State Government and endorsed by Bishop Greg to wear a mask while at Mass.

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 (1st collection).

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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 756.10
Second Collection 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.

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.

FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2021

**FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
MASS 12.00 NOON**

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH BALLINA

(Booking for Mass not required please register your name at the door on sheets provided or use the QR codes)



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, 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

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

If you need a priest please call the after hours mobile phone 0423 445 639

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am

Anawim Room will resume on Saturday 2nd January

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

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.

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 and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058 or email

ASIA EMERGENCY APPEAL: Storm surges and flooding devastate South East Asia. You can provide critical lifesaving aid and assistance to the communities in Asia devastated by earthquakes, cyclones, flooding or conflicts. Your donation will ensure that our partners on the ground can respond quickly and efficiently when disasters strike. The devastation caused by the worst storms and flooding in the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam in nearly a decade, is urging us all to act. Since early October, Vietnam and Cambodia have experienced unprecedented rainfall and severe flooding. Several people have been killed, and hundreds of thousands of homes have been submerged. The region has been hit by several back-to-back typhoons. Donate to : <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/online-donation?DonationCode=AASIA>



THE HOLY FAMILY

Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families. www.catholicculture.org/

Humour – Listen more carefully.

A wife says to her engineer husband, 'Could you please go to the store for me and buy a carton of milk. And if they have eggs, get six.'

A short time later the husband comes back with six cartons of milk.

The wife asks, 'Why on earth did you buy six cartons of milk?' The husband answered, 'They had eggs.'

Quote: "Having somewhere to go is home. Having someone to love is family. And having both is a blessing."

(Author unknown)

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: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14;

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **(R.)**

2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **(R.)**

3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R.)**

4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all

these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 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.



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

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 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.