

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.

**Mary Mother of God
(A)**

1st January 2023

'WELCOME'

**Weekend Mass Times
Ballina**

St Francis Xavier Church

Saturday Vigil — 6.00 pm

Sunday — 9.00 am

Sunday — 11.00 am

Lennox Head

Holy Family Church

Saturday Vigil—5.00 pm

Sunday—7.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

at St Francis Xavier Church

Tuesday to Friday

12.00 noon

RECONCILIATION

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

Feast Days

**Sts Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen**

Monday

Holy Name of Jesus

Tuesday

Happy New Year 2023

The greatest mother of them all

Most of us can handle changes to our plans that are part of everyday life. For example, a friend 'drops in' unexpectedly and we have to put aside what we're doing or set an extra place for dinner; a family member falls sick and we have to postpone a planned trip; or our computer or smart phone crashes, leaving us 'high and dry', in the midst of something important. We might complain and grumble, but we generally accept the changes, despite the inconvenience and disruption.

The change of plans announced by the angel Gabriel to Mary weren't simply an inconvenience. Her life and future were already somewhat established: she was betrothed and no doubt expecting a typical married life. Gabriel's message

changed everything! In saying "yes" to God, Mary had to surrender her plans, her life and her body. By surrendering (saying "yes") to God, new life comes not only to Mary, but through her to the whole world.

It's difficult to really appreciate the disruption to Mary's life plans that her "yes" to God caused. She was a simple young girl who, without understanding fully what was being asked of her, surrendered herself to God and was "overshadowed by the power of the Most High."

Surrendering to the Spirit is a challenge for us all. It is to let God take the lead and allow the power of the Most High to overshadow us and lead us to where God is calling and re-

veal to us what God is asking. Surrendering to the Spirit means casting aside all the 'baggage' we carry and cling to, and that weighs us down and holds us back from being the person God wants us to be and knows we can be. Without openness and surrender we can become sluggish. Surrendering to the Spirit stretches us, gives us new colour and

outlook, and breathes new air into our lives. Surrendering to the Spirit happens when we realise that it's time to become someone new. It's not about giving up, but moving on to something greater in God's plan.

We don't need all the details of God's plan for us. Like Mary, we need to say "yes" and trustingly to reach out and take

God's hand. Only by surrendering, can we come to new life and help bring that life to the world around us.

As we leave behind 2022, we look back and, like Mary, "treasure and ponder in our hearts" all the moments of grace, blessing and growth, and give thanks. As we begin 2023, we look forward with expectation and a readiness to surrender to all that will come our way, ready to say "yes".

To our family, friends and loved ones we say: "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

David J Hore CSsR ©Majellan 2023



We are a community who welcomes everyone without exception.

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

ROSTER: Epiphany Year A: 7th/8th January, 2023 Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12			
	6.00 pm Vigil Ballina	Sunday 9.00 am Ballina	Sunday 11.00 am Ballina
Readers	John Jarzynski Yvonne Head	Margaret Tay Wendy Hughes	Jim O'Kane Leanne Robbins
EMHC	Trish Bazar	Denise Miller & Cathy Campbell	Helen Cooney
	Lennox Head 5.00 pm Vigil Mass	Lennox Head Sunday 7.30 am	 
Readers	Mick Vella Paul Milgate	Marie Sullivan	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Betty Chandler, Marilyn Lannan,

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

AND ALSO FOR: Jack & Marie Flood, Beatrice Flood, 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: Tony Smith, Hugo Long (infant Brisbane) Carmel Hackett, Michael Harris,, Kristine Bannerman, Leila Atken (Sydney), Virginia Kohlbach and family, Aoife Stephenson 1 yr (Brisbane), David Anderton, Patrick Connelley, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Barbara Levett, Dympna Sheehy, Samantha Anderson, Aunt Julia Paden, Louise King, Greg Campbell, Layla Small, Maree Doolan, John Moreland, 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.
(Names of those who are ill will be removed after six weeks. Please advise the parish office if you wish names to remain or be removed if good health as been restored.)

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS

Save the Date
11th February
2023

Saturday
Time tba
All Welcome!!

'Coming Closer to Christ through Prayer'

Sunday
5th February

9.45 am

Parish Cuppa

Ash Wednesday

22nd February

Palm Sunday

2nd April

Holy Thursday

6th April

Good Friday

7th April

Holy Saturday

8th April

Easter Sunday

9th April

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ~ not in recess

You are invited to join in this unique form of prayer. **9.30 am Saturdays** in the Anawim Room Parish Administration Centre, entry via Swift Street.
Christian meditation is a very simple and ancient tradition of prayer. You will be warmly welcomed into this group.

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.

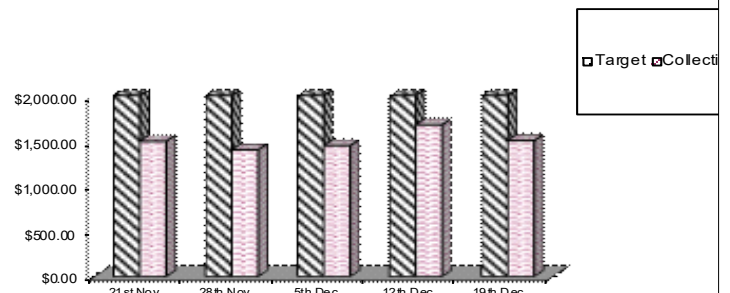
- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your **Planned Giving Donation ONLY**
- By making an EFTPOS donation — **1st Collection** to Ballina Presbyterium BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: **your name**
- **2nd Collection** to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218
- Please ensure you **use your Planed Giving number as reference**, place your envelopes in the collection boxes provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience.

DIF PAYS 2.60% PER ANNUM AS OF 1ST JANUARY, 2023

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

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 910.90
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 529.15
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$1,501.70
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$2,009.00



Parish Notices

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



BAPTISM: Our parish family welcomes into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this week:
Arabella O'Neill Capitano daughter of Matthew and Holly.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

will re-open this Tuesday 3rd January 2023. If you are in need of a priest please call 0423 445 639.

JOSEPHITE 2023 CALENDARS

Now available from the parish admin office. \$10.00 each.
Not too late for the New Year.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP DONATION BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Our St Francis Xavier Parish Youth Ministry is a growing, thriving youth group that relies on your generous support. Your donations can help support initiatives such as:
Materials for our regular youth events ~ Food, items and other resources for our activities ~ Financial support for youth in need ~ Materials needed for conferences, youth camps, World Youth Day and other events.

If using electronic transfer please direct your donation to St Francis Xavier Parish ~ Ref 'Youth' ~ BSB 082 522 ~ A/c 50960 3218 Thank you.

**OUR PARISH IS IN URGENT NEED OF
CATECHISTS FOR 2023 ~ Please consider.**
An invitation to reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission. Please contact the Parish Office

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 12th February 2023

**You are invited to St Joseph's Church
Coraki Centenary**

**Join us for Mass at 9.15 am in St Joseph's Church
Coraki followed by morning tea, at the St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School (next door)
Celebrating the 100 year Journey.**



ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINIAN PEOPLE

Australia's Bishops are encouraging Catholics to respond to the call from the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia to provide financial support to people in the war-torn nation as winter arrives. Donations will be received by cash in envelope or direct bank transfer to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c No 50960 3218 marked '**Ukraine Appeal**'. All donations raised will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: **Evacuation** of people from frontline territories; **Food packages** for people in need; **Shelters** for internally displaced persons.

**Christian Mediation Saturday 9.30 am will continue
Parish Youth Group** is in recess

Marian Cenacle is in recess

Ballina CCR is in recess until 30th January, 2023

Sisterhood is in recess

Prayer of the Church & Rosary is in recess

Rosary at Holy Family Church 8.00 am Wednesday

'FAREWELL' AND 'THANK YOU' to Bianca McInnes our Parish Youth Co-Ordinator.



Bianca began her role with the Parish in February 2022, she will now be a part of St Joseph's College Banora Point team as their College Minister.

We thank Bianca for the incredible work she has done with our Parish Youth Group throughout 2022. Congratulations and we wish you every success in your new role.

Love and prayers from all the Parish

Reflection for Mary the Most Holy Mother of God



.....The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our *Abba*. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter. *Dianne Bergant CSA, Liturgy Help*



FOR THIS NEW YEAR: *I pray that you'll embrace 2023 with great courage and unshaken faith. May you achieve your heart's desires and may your journey be wonderful.*
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

POSITION AVAILABLE ADMINISTRATION TRAINEE

Do you know anyone who would like to work as an Administration Trainee?

The Chancery in Lismore and Invercauld House in Goonellabah would like to support a trainee in their pursuit of a Cert III in Business Administration. At the Chancery, you will receive exposure to many areas of administration, supporting all other administrative positions within the organisation. At Invercauld House you would be able to gain experience working in administration in a hospitality venue. If you or anyone you know are passionate about obtaining administrative experience as a trainee in a caring and supportive environment or you would like additional information, please call Marijo Bradley on 6621 9444.

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

Just a thought: 'Isn't it nice to know that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet!' *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 ON THE COLLECTION PLATES AT ANY WEEKEND MASS.

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27*A reading from the book of Numbers*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.**

1. God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples.
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7;*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries,

'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 2:16-21***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**FOR THIS WEEK'S MIDDAY MASS—PLEASE PRAY TOGETHER****TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY 2023 ~ FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

Entrance Antiphon: At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Communion Antiphon: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name through all the earth!

WEDNESDAY 4th 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 ~ 5th 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 ~ 6th 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.



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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.