

neotēs

AUTUMN 2025

by the youth,
for the youth



ISSUE No 13

**YOUNG ADULTS: HOLY
WEEK PILGRIMAGE**

**HABEMUS PAPAM!
WHO IS LEO XIV?**

**YOUTH: LEAD
CONFERENCE**





neotēs

PARISH YOUTH COORDINATOR

KAILANI TIERNAN

COLLEGE YOUTH MINISTER

BRENDON CLARKE

YOUNG ADULT CORRESPONDENT

GEORGIA HICKLING

YOUTH MINISTRY CORRESPONDENT

SR. DI MORALDE

IN COLLABORATION WITH

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

Saint Francis Xavier Catholic
Parish located in Ballina and
Lennox Head, NSW.



BALLINA YOUTH

Catholic Youth and Young Adult
Network located in the Ballina, NSW.

UPPER ROOM YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group for teens occurring Sunday
afternoons 6:00–8:00pm during school
term in the Parish Upper Room.



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From the Editor

Welcome to Neotēs, a magazine born out of faith, creativity, and the belief that young people are not just the future of the Church — we are the Church *right now*.

This magazine is more than a collection of stories; it's a space where faith meets real life, where Catholic teaching is lived out through our struggles, our questions, our passions, and our hope. Every article, poem, photo, and reflection you'll find here is created by youth, for youth — rooted in our shared mission to follow Christ and serve the world.

As young Catholics, we face a unique calling. We're navigating a world full of noise and distractions, but we are also filled with courage, compassion, and a hunger for truth. In these pages, you'll see how our generation is answering the call of Jesus — through acts of service, through prayer, through art, and through speaking out for justice.

Inspired by the words of St. Paul to Timothy, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example... in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12), we offer this magazine as a reminder that your voice, your faith, and your life matter deeply to the Church and to the world.

We pray that what you read here sparks something in your heart — whether it's comfort, challenge, or courage. May this issue remind you that you're not alone on your journey. We're walking this path of discipleship together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kailani Tiernan". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Kailani" and "Tiernan" being capitalized and prominent.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

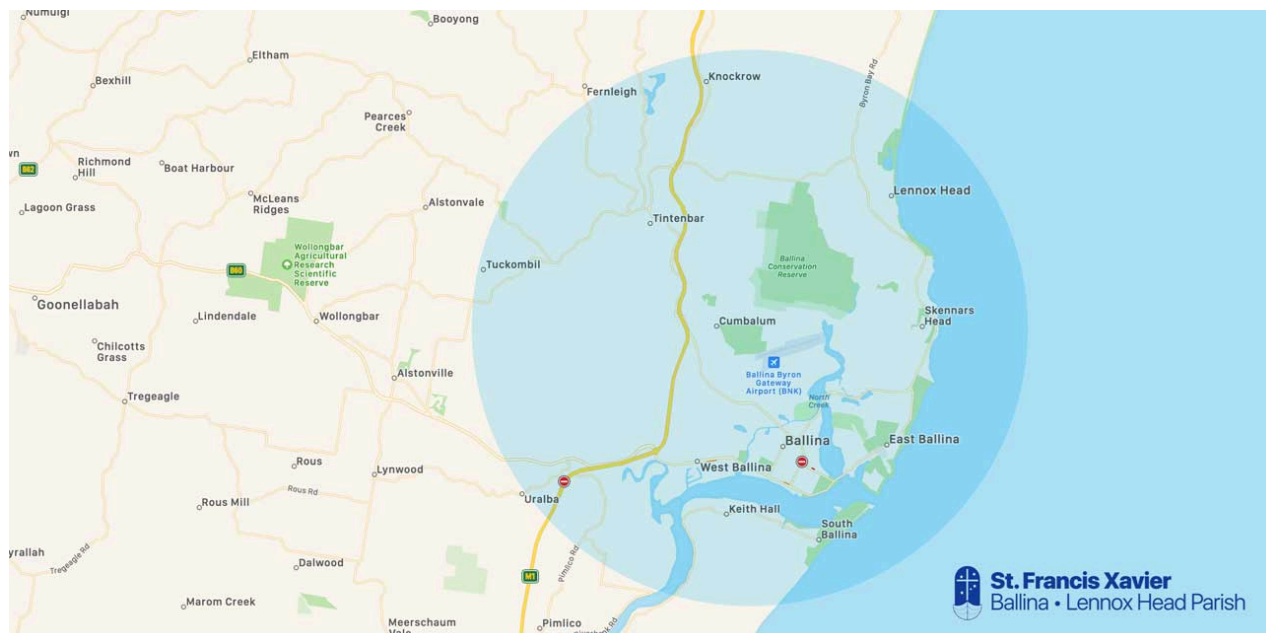
The image shows the exterior of a modern Catholic church. A large, white cross stands prominently in front of the building. The church has a gabled roof with a large, multi-paned stained glass window. The walls are constructed from light-colored stone blocks. Below the stained glass window, there is a row of smaller, dark-framed windows. A statue of St. Francis Xavier, dressed in white robes and holding a book, stands in front of the lower windows. The overall scene is set against a clear blue sky.

Our History

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH, BALLINA

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH

Ballina Parish



"A parish is a definite community of the Christian faithful established on a stable basis within a particular Church; the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop" (Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 515).

What is a Parish?

A parish is a community of faithful people who all live in an area. A community of God's people, who come together to pray and celebrate Mass, serve the wider community, and are united in God's love. Parishes can be really small or really large, have at least one church in their area and are looked after by a priest.

Our parish is the St. Francis Xavier Parish Ballina, and we have 2 churches; one in Ballina called the St. Francis Xavier Church and one in Lennox Head called the Holy Family Church. Our parish includes people from Ballina, Ballina Heights, Lennox Head, Skennars Head; and also Tintenbar, Teven, Cumbalum, Knockrow and the surrounding areas.

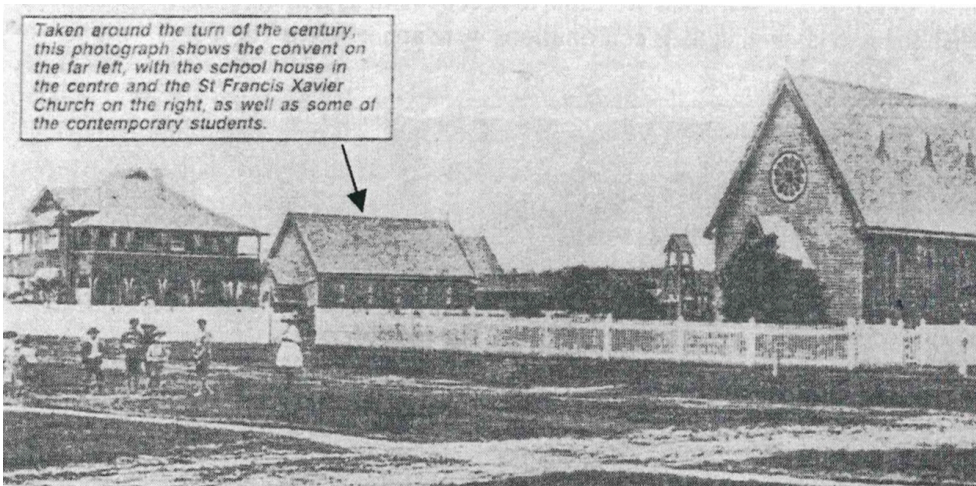
Our Parish Family of Ballina is part of the Lismore Diocese. An even wider community of believers, made up of people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds who are looked after by a Bishop. The Diocese of Lismore starts at Tweed Heads in the north and finishes in Laurieton in the south, and has 22 parishes. We are looked after by Bishop Gregory Homeming who lives at the Cathedral in Lismore, a really big church that people from all around the Diocese travel to visit.

St Francis Xavier is a vibrant parish where:

- people from all cultures will be warmly welcomed into our faith community
- people will share their baptismal calling to witness the love of God in action
- people will receive the Sacraments throughout their life journey in a community embraced with encouragement and love.

Vision Statement of St Francis Xavier's Parish Ballina/Lennox Head

- *Celebrate:* We are disciples of Jesus and celebrate his presence amongst us.
- *Evangelise:* We are called to recognise Jesus, accept him in our lives and spread the GOOD NEWS of salvation.
- *Develop:* We are committed by developing the life and mission of our parish
- *Collaborate:* We are a community who welcome everyone without exception.
- *Care:* We are a people who acknowledge the worth of every individual and the environment in which we live.



Ballina's First Church (1881)

In the Beginning...

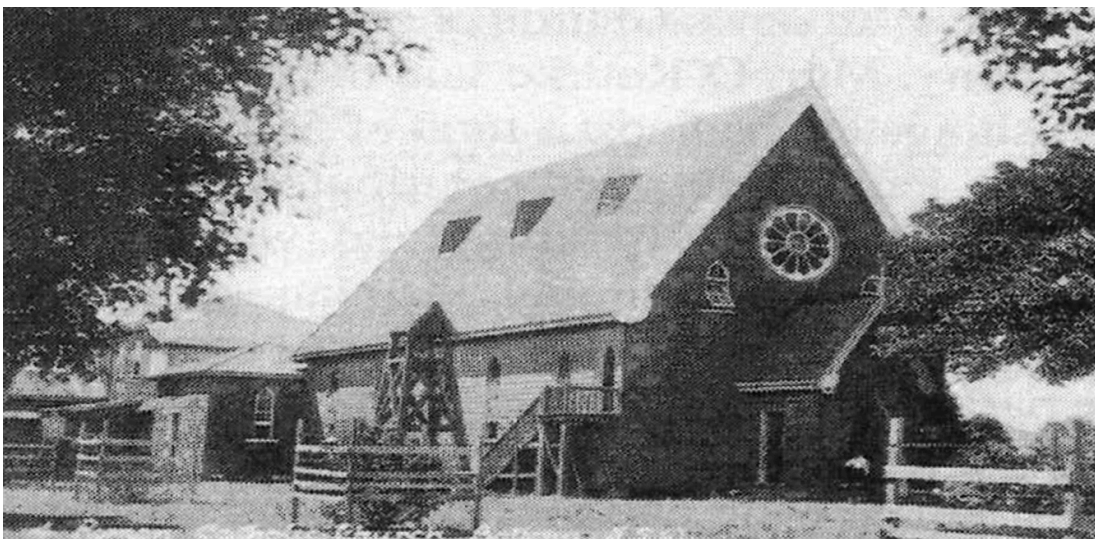
In 1853, Father William McGinty visited Ballina. He travelled from Ipswich via Tenterfield, Grafton, Casino and Coraki and then by boat to Ballina, visiting members of the small flock, baptised 3 children, and returned via Duck Creek, Tatham, and Kyogle. He did it all again in 1854.

Father Timothy McCarthy was appointed priest-in-charge of New England Plains 'east to the Pacific Ocean and north to the Tweed'. He resided in Armidale and over the next eight years made annual visits.

In 1862, Father J Murphy was appointed the first priest-in-charge of a Parish which encompassed Coffs Harbour, Tenterfield, the Tweed and Ballina, this was administered from Grafton.

A Brief History

- 1890: Parish of Ballina established – Ballina population 1000
- 1901: New St Francis Xavier Church opened
- 1955: Holy Family Church opened in Lennox Head
- 1962: New brick church opened at Ballina by Bishop Farrelly



Ballina's Second Church (1901)

OUR PARISH YOUTH MINISTERS



At the beginning of 2024, the Diocese implemented a new approach to Youth Minister employment in our Catholic High Schools. College Youth Ministers with more extensive experience and training in Youth Ministry have been engaged to work more closely with students within individual secondary schools.

The CYM (College Youth Minister) at our local High School, Xavier Catholic College is Brendon Clarke. Brendon was a Youth Ministry Officer at St John Paul College Coffs Harbour and has served the Xavier community as CYM for the last year. Brendon is an active member of our Parish as both the XCC Youth Minister and a Parishoner here in Ballina. He has been involved in leading our Parish Youth Group, Youth Ministry Events in and outside of our Parish, representing the Diocese as a pilgrim at World Youth Day in 2023, altar serving, facilitating youth ministry retreats, and he has been involved in our local and Diocesan young adults groups.

BRENDON CLARKE
COLLEGE YOUTH MINISTER
XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE, BALLINA



Kailani Tiernan began as the Parish Youth Coordinator at the end of 2023 after returning from representing the Diocese as a pilgrim at World Youth Day. Kailani has been involved with youth ministry for many years serving as a Youth Ministry Officer at Xavier Catholic College, assisting on ministry retreats, and representing the Parish at many National and International events over the years including Australian Catholic Youth Festivals (2017, 2019), and World Youth Day 2023. She also participated in the Jesuit and Companion School's Australia (JACSA) Timor-Leste Immersion in 2019.

As the Parish Youth Coordinator, Kailani leads the Upper Room Youth Group on Sunday evenings, organises young adult ministry events, assists in the Sacramental and Catechist programs. She has a passion for learning and is fascinated by the lives of the Saints, who act as role models in faith, and have contributed greatly to the traditions and history of the Catholic Church.

KAILANI TIERNAN
PARISH YOUTH COORDINATOR
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH, BALLINA



Youth & Young Adult Ministry

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." - 1 Timothy 4:12

YOUTH MINISTRY

Upper Room Youth Group Update

BY THE SPIRIT OF FAITH | AUTUMN 2025



The Upper Room Youth Group occurs Sunday afternoons 6:00–8:00pm during school term in the Parish Upper Room. We are a warm and welcoming group, who aim to provide a sense of community, culture and belonging to the youth of the Ballina Parish through the development of their social and spiritual needs.

As we continue journeying through Lent and the Year of Hope, our youth group has been embracing the invitation to grow in faith, build a joy-filled community, and be messengers of God's love in a world that truly needs it. This season has been full of memorable moments that combined reflection, celebration, and, of course, a little lightsaber action!

We kicked off mid-March with a St. Patrick's Day-themed

night filled with green balloons, Irish games, and a reflection on the life of St. Patrick. We explored how his courage and faith helped bring Christianity to Ireland—and how we can be modern-day missionaries in our schools, sports teams, and homes. We all dressed in green, and were even treated to some green face paint!

Our first Movie Night of the year was a hit with the animated film *Surf's Up*—a mockumentary-style comedy about Cody Maverick, a young penguin from Antarctica who dreams of becoming a professional surfer. As Cody enters a major competition, he meets unexpected friends and learns that winning isn't everything. The real victory is found in community, humility, and staying true to your purpose. After the film, we discussed how God calls each of us to live with purpose—not for applause, but for something greater.

"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM."

We began Term 2 on May 4th with an appropriately themed Star Wars Night. Connecting it to the Jubilee Year, we spoke about being "Pilgrims of Hope" and the Hope of the Risen Lord. We reflected on the just-passed Holy Week and Easter period and shared how we spent our holidays. We were treated to some amazing costumes, the winner a full Darth Vader suit, hosted Star Wars trivia (aka Star Wars or Proverbs), lightsaber duels (foam ones, of course), and a short talk titled: "Hope in the Darkness". The Youth Group explored how discernment, prayer, and Scripture help us stay connected to God's will—far better than any Jedi mind trick!

We had a surprise visit from one of our Youth Leaders from last year (a regular Ballina Parish celebrity) Ollie! He joined us for our Star Wars night, which ended with an Kailani being doused in ice-cold water thanks to the Port Macquarie Encounter Youth Group, who nominated her for the Ice Bucket Challenge.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Looking ahead to the coming months we will be focusing on the Holy Spirit and how it works in our lives. We also excited to announce that we are partnering with parishes throughout the Lismore Diocese for a sacred journey this Pentecost, as we join together this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope.

On the 8th of June, Pentecost Sunday, members of our Upper Room Youth Group and Parish Young Adults Group will be leading a Pilgrimage walk from our Holy Family Catholic Church in Lennox Head to our St. Francis Xavier Church in Ballina. This wonderful initiative will be replicated around our Diocese in different Parishes on the same day. We hope that this will become an annual activity, where the parish are led by our youth to take time to reflect, pray, and build community. All are welcome to attend.

In August, Xavier students from years 9 to 12, including members of our Parish Youth Group, will travel to St. John Paul College in Coffs Harbour to join with ministry students from around the Lismore Diocese for its largest annual Youth Gathering, SHINE.

SHINE is an overnight gathering of Youth Ministry Classes and Senior Ministry Team leaders from across our Diocese, offering students an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ



"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM."



and the Church, to experience dynamic faith formation, become equipped for ministry, and to be empowered to impact the Church and the world. It is an opportunity to gather and share an experience of faith. Last year's theme was 'Burn'.

"I will ask the father, and he will give you another advocate, to be with you forever – the spirit of truth." – John 14:16



UPPER ROOM YOUTH GROUP GALLERY



LEAD Gathering 2025

"You are set apart—not to stand above, but to stand out. Not to fit in, but to lead others to Christ."

SET APART | AUTUMN 2025



Empowers Young Disciples to Lead with Faith

A Transformative Youth Event Rooted in Purpose

From March 20–21, 2025, over 200 senior students from across the Diocese of Lismore gathered at McAuley Catholic College in Grafton for the annual LEAD Student Discipleship Gathering—a key formation event in the Diocese's Youth Ministry calendar.

This year's theme, "Set Apart," was inspired by the words of 1 Timothy 4:12: "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but rather, set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." This scriptural call reminded every student that they are not just part of the Church—they are set apart for a mission: to lead with faith, courage, and love in their schools and communities.

What is LEAD?

LEAD (Leaders Evangelising And Discipling) is a two-day discipleship formation experience developed through the

Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI) program. It is facilitated by Mission Services of the Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools, in collaboration with College Youth Ministers (CYMs)—young adults employed to support youth ministry and religious education in diocesan parish schools.

LEAD is more than an event—it's a commissioning. Students leave LEAD ready to return to their schools and parishes as connected, committed, and courageous young missionary disciples. The event is also a stepping stone toward involvement in SHINE, a diocesan youth ministry celebration involving over 600 students, scheduled for August 2025.

The journey doesn't end at LEAD. Participants are now returning to their school and parish communities filled with purpose, joy, and a renewed sense of identity as leaders in faith.

As they prepare to gather again for SHINE in August, the seeds planted at LEAD will continue to grow into ministries of compassion, leadership, and mission.



LEAD GATHERING GALLERY



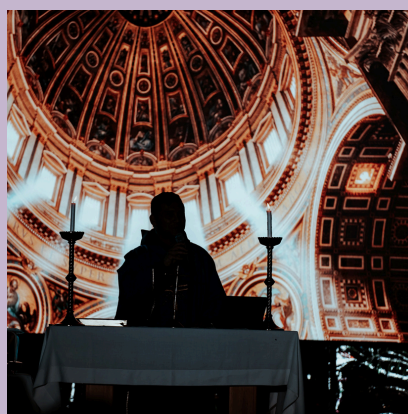


LEAD GATHERING GALLERY





LEAD GATHERING GALLERY



The Lenten Season

LENT: A GOOD TIME TO RECOVER THE JOY AND HOPE THAT MAKE US FEEL LIKE BELOVED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE FATHER

"Let us journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint, the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter." - Pope Francis in his Lenten Message, 6th February 2025

Bishop's Lenten Talks

Hope and Solitude in the Jubilee Year of Hope



**"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble...Be still and know that I am God."
(Psalm 46:1-2, 10)**

Hope and Solitude in the Jubilee Year of Hope

In Lent 2025, Bishop Greg Homeming OCD offered a moving three-part talk series across the Diocese of Lismore, helping Catholics reflect on what it means to live the Jubilee Year of Hope in a world marked by uncertainty, fatigue, and grief. Drawing from Scripture and Carmelite spirituality, he invited listeners into a deeper experience of hope, freedom, and solitude.

Talk 1: "The Jubilee Year of Hope & Invitation to Solitude"

In the first of his 2025 Lenten talks, Bishop Greg Homeming OCD set the tone for a deeply contemplative and hopeful Lent, framing his reflection around the Jubilee Year of Hope and Jesus' time in the wilderness. Speaking with his usual gentleness and insight, Bishop Greg addressed the spiritual fatigue and emotional weariness felt by many across the Diocese, particularly in the wake of natural disasters and cultural uncertainty.

He began by naming something we often avoid: many of us are struggling to feel hopeful. We are tired—physically, mentally, emotionally—and unsure how to respond when life feels bleak or unmanageable. Bishop Greg's message was clear: Hope is not a feeling; it is a choice. It is a spiritual discipline rooted in trust.

1. Hope as a Discipline, Not Optimism

Bishop Greg emphasised that Christian hope is not the same as being positive or upbeat. Rather, it's the deep inner confidence that God is present, working, and loving—even when we cannot see Him clearly. Referencing the Gospel account of Jesus being led into the wilderness by the Spirit, Bishop Greg reminded us that Jesus Himself experienced isolation, hunger, and testing—yet remained faithful and rooted in the Father's love.

"In the wilderness, Jesus confronts temptation not by escaping, but by trusting."

The wilderness is not a punishment, he explained, but a place of spiritual formation. In this way, Lent is a symbolic wilderness, where we too are invited to confront what is uncomfortable, but in a way that brings freedom and healing.

2. The Power of Solitude

A central focus of this talk was Bishop Greg's invitation into solitude. Not to be confused with loneliness or withdrawal, Christian solitude is a deliberate opening of space—both externally and internally—for God to enter. It's a place where distraction falls away and our true self can meet the God who sees us clearly.

"SOLITUDE IS NOT ABOUT BEING ALONE. IT'S ABOUT BEING PRESENT, FIRST TO YOURSELF, THEN TO GOD."

He acknowledged that many people avoid solitude because silence can feel awkward or even painful. But Bishop Greg encouraged us to stay with it: in stillness, we begin to hear God speak—not loudly, but gently. Over time, that inner silence becomes a place of peace.

3. Responding to God's Invitation

Tying his message to the Jubilee Year of Hope, Bishop Greg spoke of this liturgical year as an invitation—both personal and communal—to rediscover the joy and promise of God's love, even amid suffering. He urged each one of us not to let Lent pass by with only external observances, but to go inward: to listen, reflect, and trust.

Returning Home

To help people act on this message, Bishop Greg offered a simple spiritual exercise: Find 10 minutes of silence each day—no phone, no background noise. Sit quietly and say: "Lord, I am here. Speak to my heart. Let go of the need to 'accomplish' anything. Simply listen and be still. This small act, he said, opens the door for God to plant seeds of hope in our souls.

Bishop Greg concluded his first Lenten talk by reminding us that God is not waiting for us to be perfect—He's waiting for us to be present. In the midst of noise, chaos, and suffering, the invitation is clear: step into solitude, choose hope, and walk with Christ through the wilderness.

"When everything else is stripped away, God remains. That is where hope begins."

Lenten Talk 2 – "Hope Leading to Freedom"

In the second talk of his 2025 Lenten series, Bishop Greg continued guiding us through the spiritual landscape of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Building on his first reflection, which explored solitude and surrender, this talk focused on the connection between hope and true inner freedom.

Using the Gospel account of Jesus' Transfiguration, Bishop Greg led us to consider what it means to be transformed—not just by mystical experiences, but by the hope that comes from seeing reality in the light of God. He reminded us that the Christian journey is not about escaping suffering or seeking constant inspiration, but about allowing even fleeting moments of divine clarity to reshape how we live, love, and let go.

1. The Transfiguration Is a Moment of Mercy

In Luke 9, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain. There, they catch a glimpse of His divine glory—a moment that is awe-inspiring, overwhelming, and deeply revealing.

Bishop Greg explained that this mountaintop encounter is not just about Jesus showing His divinity; it's about preparing the disciples to face what is to come—His suffering and death. The moment of glory gives context and courage to face the valley ahead.

"God often gives us glimpses of light—not to lift us out of hardship, but to strengthen us within it."

2. Hope Illuminates Our Inner World

This talk dug deeply into the internal impact of hope. Hope is not passive or theoretical—it is an active, transformative force that helps us interpret both suffering and success with spiritual clarity. Hope enables us to see that the hardships are not the whole story. God is working, even when He is hidden and that we are being drawn towards something greater than our pain. Bishop Greg challenged us to ask: *"What if God's glory is not about dazzling light—but about the slow, radiant change of a heart learning to trust?"*

3. Freedom Is the Fruit of Hope

True freedom, Bishop Greg said, is not the ability to do whatever we want. It is the capacity to live without fear, to let go of what weighs us down, and to act with love, even in uncertainty.

This kind of freedom comes when we embrace hope as an anchor—especially when things don't go our way. The hope we are called to as Christians is one that frees us from the illusions of control, the fears of failure and our need for approval and certainty.

"Hope frees you not from pain—but from the lie that your pain is meaningless."

Returning Home

Bishop Greg encouraged us to reflect on moments of spiritual light in their own lives—times of clarity, love, peace, or joy—and to hold onto them in prayer. These “transfiguration moments” remind us that God’s glory is real and near, even when it fades from view. Pray: “Lord, help me to remember the light when I am walking in darkness.”

Bishop Greg closed by reminding us that the Transfiguration is a sign of what is possible when we live in hope. Though Lent often invites us into self-denial and stillness, it is not a season of gloom—it is a season of preparation for freedom.

“WHEN YOU SEE LIFE THROUGH THE EYES OF HOPE, YOU NO LONGER LIVE FOR SURVIVAL, YOU LIVE FOR LOVE.”

Hope does not always remove our crosses, but it changes how we carry them—and who we carry them with.

Lenten Talk 3 – “The Freedom of Solitude”

In this concluding Lenten reflection, Bishop Greg brought the series full circle. Having explored the grounding role of hope and the illumination of spiritual clarity in solitude, he now turned to the ultimate fruit of solitude: freedom.

Freedom, Bishop Greg explained, is one of the most misunderstood spiritual goals. We often think of it as the ability to act without restraint. But true Christian freedom—the freedom Jesus offers—is the freedom to be who you really are before God, without fear, masks, or pretence. This kind of freedom begins not with action, but with solitude—the place where the ego falls away, and God meets us in truth.

1. Solitude as Encounter, Not Escape

Bishop Greg was careful to distinguish between isolation and solitude. Isolation wounds, while solitude heals. In solitude, we are not running from others—we are coming closer to ourselves and to God.

“In solitude, you meet your true self. That can be uncomfortable—but it is also the beginning of freedom.” He acknowledged that the first experience of solitude can be disorienting. Without distractions, many of us feel exposed. But this discomfort is a gift. When we no longer distract ourselves from our weaknesses, we begin to see that God does not reject us for our flaws—He embraces us through them.

2. Freedom Is Found in the Truth

Quoting Jesus’ words from John 8—“The truth will set you free”—Bishop Greg challenged us to consider: What truth are we avoiding? In our spiritual lives, we often perform. We try to be “holy,” “good,” or “strong.” But in solitude, there is no audience. We face the truth of our fears, sins, limitations, and our deep, persistent longing for love.

Bishop Greg reminded us that this honesty is not a threat—it’s an invitation. The truth we find in solitude is not condemnation—it is Christ’s healing gaze.

“The person you try to hide from God... that is the person He came to save.”

3. Freedom Is a Response, Not a Reward

Freedom is not earned. It is a gift that we receive when we stop pretending. In solitude, God gently leads us to that place of surrender, where we stop striving to be acceptable and simply rest in His love. Only there can we say I am no longer ruled by shame. I do not fear my flaws. I am free to love, free to serve, free to hope.

Returning Home

Bishop Greg encouraged listeners to make solitude a spiritual rhythm, not just a Lenten discipline. He suggested:

- Regular time each day in silence—before or after meals, or at the end of the day
- Use Scripture, especially the Psalms or John’s Gospel, to guide your reflection
- Ask yourself: What part of me do I still keep hidden from God? Let that part be the place where love begins.

In closing the series, Bishop Greg reminded us that freedom, hope, and solitude are not separate spiritual goals—they are deeply connected. The Jubilee Year of Hope is not about escaping pain, but embracing the grace that meets us in our humanity.

Lent, he said, is not just about giving up things—it is about giving God permission to speak into your silence, to lead you through the wilderness, and to reveal that you are not alone.

“FREEDOM IS NOT FOUND BY FIXING YOURSELF, IT’S FOUND BY LETTING GOD LOVE YOU AS YOU ARE.”

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" – Romans 15:13

On Saturday 19th April, Holy Saturday, three of our young adults walked from the St. Francis Xavier Church Ballina to the Sharpe's Beach Headland, in preparation for the Pentecost Pilgrimage which will take place on Sunday 8th June.

On the final day of the Triduum, we retraced Christ's final steps to Calvary through the Fourteen Stations, our journey becoming a moving witness to faith, sacrifice and community. We shared moments of silence, reflection and prayer, reading through the Way of the Cross and meditations of St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. John Paul II.

Unlike the fast pace of everyday life, this pilgrimage invited slowness, intention, and sacred pause. Along the path, we took turns reading meditations at each station—some traditional, others deeply personal—inviting each other to connect the Passion of Christ with the burdens and crosses of the world today.

Station 12, 'Jesus Dies Upon the Cross' was read at 3:00pm, the traditional time we remember Christ's death on the Cross. At that precise moment, the we sat gathered in the stillness, the silence deep. There were no distractions. No music. No movement. Just the weight of that hour—the moment when the Son of God gave His life for the world.

In a world often marked by noise and hurry, the Holy Saturday Pilgrimage gave us the space to slow down, reflect, and reconnect—with God, with our faith, and with one another. As we now return to daily life, the message of the walk remains clear: We are not alone in our suffering. Christ walks with us. And through the Cross, we find hope.

If you'd like to join future pilgrimages or young adult events in the Parish, contact the Youth Ministry Coordinator or follow us on @ballina.youth.

Kailani Tiernan

LENTEN SEASON

CHRISM MASS



Pictured: Georgia Hickling (left), Kailani Tiernan (middle), and Sr. Di Moralde (right) holding the Oil of the Sick, the Holy Chrism and the the Oil of Catechumens.

On Monday 14th April, the Chrism Mass was held in the St Carthage's Cathedral, where some of our young adults assisted as altar servers, and distributing the oils.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass is an important event for the whole diocese, in it, the local Church shows its care for those being initiated, those designated for the ordained ministry and those who are sick. This is where the Holy Chrism, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of the Sick, for the year are blessed by the Bishop. The renewal of commitment to priestly service takes place during this Mass as well.

The use of oil in sacred rites was common in the semitic world of the Old Testament. When Aaron and his sons were consecrated as priests they were anointed (Exodus 30:22-31). Kings were anointed: Saul, David, Solomon – either by priest or prophet (1 Samuel 16:12-13). The purpose of anointing was to dedicate a person or object as sacred in God's service.

Jesus, the Anointed One. The Hebrew word for messiah and its Greek translation from which we derive the name Christ means 'the anointed one'. At the start of His ministry, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus attributed the words of Isaiah to Himself, 'The Spirit of the Lord has been given to Me, for He has anointed Me...' (Luke 4:18). St Peter expressed his faith that Jesus is the Messiah in the words, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16).

"Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet and king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from the." (Catechism of the Catholic Church para. 783)

Anointing with Chrism. Reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination to the priesthood and episcopacy are accompanied by anointing with the Oil of Chrism. These sacraments give a permanent, irremovable character, the seal of the

THESE SACRAMENTS GIVE A PERMANENT, IRREMOVABLE CHARACTER, THE SEAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH LASTS TO ETERNITY.

Holy Spirit which lasts to eternity. They confer an intimate identity with Christ, conforming us, in the depths of our being, more closely to his person and his mission as priest, prophet and king. The anointing is the sign that a person has been chosen and consecrated to fulfil a specific role in God's plan under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The Oil of Chrism is also used by the bishop to anoint the consecration of crosses on the walls of a church when it is consecrated and poured on an altar when it is dedicated.



Mass of Chrism. The blessing of oil is very ancient, there is documented evidence of this liturgy from the fourth century, but it is certainly of earlier origin. The Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens are plain olive oil, the Oil of Chrism is perfumed with balsam. *[From the Diocese of Derry, Chrism Mass – Holy Thursday – St Eugene's Cathedral (2018)]*



LENTEN SEASON

The Paschal Triduum



In the Sacred Triduum, the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried, and risen.

The Paschal Triduum is a single liturgical celebration that spans over three days. It includes the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

Maundy Thursday

Holy Thursday's celebration begins the liturgical commemoration of the Passover (Pascha) of the Lord, the one single 'event' which advances stage by stage through Good Friday to its culmination in the Easter Vigil. In this Liturgy the Church celebrates with gratitude and devotion Christ's institution of the Holy Eucharist, and of the Priesthood which he ordained on the night of the Last Supper as the means of extending His saving work to every time and place "until He comes in glory".

The Mandatum (Maundy), or Washing of the Feet, is an ancient feature of this Liturgy, acting out the passage of the Gospel which precedes it in which Our Lord enjoins His commandment of love and is the first to illustrate it by His own example.

"SO IF I, YOUR LORD AND TEACHER, HAVE WASHED YOUR FEET, YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET. FOR I HAVE SET YOU AN EXAMPLE, THAT YOU ALSO SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU." (JOHN 13:1-15)

At the beginning of the Mass the tabernacle stands empty and open. After the Gloria the bells are silent until the Easter Vigil. Votive candles are not lit nor is holy water used until Easter Water is blessed at the Vigil. There is no final blessing or dismissal as the liturgy doesn't formally conclude, it simply pauses. The night ends with the transfer and procession of the Blessed Eucharist to the Altar of Repose.

Good Friday

The Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion occurs on Good Friday and consists of three parts; the Liturgy of the Word, culminating in the chanting of the Passion according to St. John; the Adoration of the Cross; and reception of Holy Communion.

**"IT IS FINISHED." THEN HE
BOWED HIS HEAD AND
GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT.**



Good Friday calls Christians to contemplate the suffering of Jesus and to connect it with the ongoing suffering in the world. Pope Francis noted that in adoring the Cross, believers remember the "sacrificed lambs," the innocent victims of wars, dictatorships, violence, and abortions, seeing in them the image of the crucified Jesus. Pope John Paul II also highlighted how the Lord's Passion continues in the suffering of humanity, including the martyrdom of those proclaiming the Gospel.

Holy Saturday

The first official celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Vigil begins with the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, starting outside around a fire, where the Paschal Candle is blessed and lit. The Paschal Candle is left near the altar until Pentecost and is alight during liturgical celebrations. The *Exsultet*, Easter Proclamation (Paschal Praeconium) is sung and is to call the people of God to worship, to proclaim the coming of Easter, and as part of the blessing of the Paschal Candle. The Vigil also includes the Baptismal Liturgy, where the blessing of the Easter water and renewal of Baptismal Promises takes place. The Vigil ends with a formal dismissal and a double alleluia, this continues for the Easter Octave. The Paschal Triduum is then complete.



"Of this night's Vigil, which is the greatest and most noble of all solemnities, there is to be only one celebration in each church. It is arranged, moreover, in such a way that after the Lucernarium and Easter Proclamation (which constitutes the first part of this Vigil), holy Church meditates on the wonders the Lord God has done for his people from the beginning, trusting in his word and promise (the second part, that is, the Liturgy of the Word) until, as day approaches, with new members reborn in Baptism (the third part), the Church is called to the table the Lord has prepared for his people, the memorial of his Death and Resurrection until he comes again (the fourth part)." - from the Roman Missal

Easter Sunday

CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA!

The empty tomb, and the neatly folded burial cloths, were signs that led the Beloved Disciple to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In the witness of the apostles, and the faithfulness, courage and love of our fellow Christians, we too have powerful signs that Christ is risen and loves among us. Observing them, our faith cries out: 'Alleluia!'

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
CHRIST IS RISEN.
ALLELUIA!**

The Resurrection of Jesus is the fundamental event upon which Christian faith rests (cf. 1 Cor 15:14). It is an astonishing reality, fully grasped in the light of faith, yet historically attested to by those who were privileged to see the Risen Lord. It is a wondrous event which is not only absolutely unique in human history, but which lies at the very heart of the mystery of time. In fact, "all time belongs to [Christ] and all the ages", as the evocative liturgy of the Easter Vigil recalls in preparing the Paschal Candle. Therefore, in commemorating the day of Christ's Resurrection not just once a year but every Sunday, the Church seeks to indicate to every generation the true fulcrum of history, to which the mystery of the world's origin and its final destiny leads. - Apostolic Letter, *Dies Domini*, of the Holy Father John Paul II

LENTEN SEASON

Bishop Greg's Easter Message 2025



This year as we approach the great Feast of Easter we cannot ignore natural disasters and worrying international problems. Lismore Diocese had flood and heavy winds courtesy of Cyclone Alfred, but luckily survived. Despite our prayers, peace is not a reality in our world, and the international economic order is being undermined. Poverty and displacement are everywhere.

Today I read the section of Genesis in which Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers. This horrible offence against family and love proves to be the salvation of the sons of Jacob who find safety and food in Egypt. From this, Moses emerges as the leader of Israel who, after the Passover, takes the Jewish people to the frontier of Israel.

Easter reminds us that in spite of darkness and seeming impossibility, God is greater and can bring out much good from human despair and negative experience. The

**"GOD IS GREATER
AND CAN BRING OUT
MUCH GOOD"**

Resurrection crowns the despondency following the death of Jesus.

We are Easter people who daily look for experiences of resurrection. If we look beyond ourselves to the abundant goodness which surrounds us, we shall see the Risen Christ.

With my prayers and Easter wishes,

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD



Church News

"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE" – ROMANS 15:13

In 2025, the Catholic Church is celebrating a Jubilee Year, also known as a Holy Year, which is a special time of spiritual renewal, forgiveness, and pilgrimage. This Jubilee, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," began on Christmas Eve 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica and will conclude on January 6, 2026.

266TH BISHOP OF ROME: POPE FRANCIS I

Life of His Holiness



Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires on December 17, 1936, Pope Francis rose from humble beginnings. He was deeply influenced by his immigrant Italian father and devout mother. Originally engaged to be married, he redirected his life after his father's sudden death in 1961, choosing the priesthood instead—a path marked by continuous service and discernment.

In March 2013, he made history as the first Latin American and non-European pope since the 8th century, as well as the first-ever Jesuit pope, bringing a spirituality of discernment, simplicity, and mission into the papacy.

He assumed the name "Francis" after St. Francis of Assisi, signaling his commitment to poverty, peacemaking, and environmental stewardship.

Over his 12-year pontificate, Pope Francis reshaped the Church through a pastoral, inclusive, and justice-oriented lens. He eschewed papal, residing in Vatican guesthouse Casa Santa Marta and riding the "popemobile" instead of limousines. He famously washed prisoners' feet and called for modest personal lifestyles for clergy. He reined in Vatican financial irregularities, advocated for decentralisation of authority, and elevated almost 80% of today's cardinals, ensuring the future Church's leadership reflects global diversity.

His 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'* called the world to ecological conversion. He confronted globalisation's injustices and took principled stands on climate change—reflecting a framework of "integral human ecology."

In January 2025, Pope Francis released his memoir *Hope*, the first ever by a sitting pope. The work delves into his Argentinian roots, pastoral vision, and the challenges of modern papacy, including an assassination attempt foiled during his 2021 Iraq visit.

Despite battling pneumonia, bronchiectasis, diabetes, and hypertension, Francis appeared publicly on Easter Sunday, greeting pilgrims just hours before his sudden death at 7:35 AM on April 21, 2025 (Easter Monday). His cause of death was a cerebral stroke followed by irreversible heart failure.

In line with his wishes, funeral rites occurred in St. Peter's Square on April 26, and he was laid to rest in Santa Maria Maggiore—the first pope buried outside the Vatican since 1669.

**"MAY THE PRINCIPLE OF
HUMANITY NEVER FAIL TO BE THE
HALLMARK OF OUR DAILY
ACTIONS."**

Death Is Not The End of Everything, But A New Beginning

The Vatican published the preface that the late Pope Francis wrote on February 7 for the book in Italian by Cardinal Angelo Scola, Archbishop Emeritus of Milan, titled "Awaiting a New Beginning. Reflections on Old Age."

I read with emotion these pages born from the thought and affection of Angelo Scola, dear brother in the episcopate and a person who has held delicate roles in the Church, such as having been rector of the Pontifical Lateran University, later Patriarch of Venice, and Archbishop of Milan.

First of all, I want to express my deep gratitude to him for this reflection that combines personal experience and cultural sensitivity in a way I have rarely encountered. One — experience — enlightens the other — culture; the second gives substance to the first. In this happy interweaving, life and culture blossom with beauty.

Let not the short form of this book be deceptive: these are very dense pages, to read and reread. From Angelo Scola's reflections I gather some particularly resonant points with what my own experience has taught me. Angelo Scola speaks to us of old age, his old age, which he writes about with a disarmingly intimate touch: "it came upon me with sudden acceleration and in many ways unexpectedly."

Already in his choice of the word with which he defines himself as "old;" I find a resonance with the author. Yes, we must not be afraid of old age, we must not fear embracing becoming old, because life is life, and sugarcoating reality means betraying the truth of things. Restoring pride to a term too often considered unhealthy is a gesture for which we should be grateful to Cardinal Scola.

Because to say "old" does not mean "to be discarded," as a degraded culture of waste sometimes leads us to think. Saying "old" instead means saying experience, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, thoughtfulness, listening, slowness... Values of which we are in great need!

It is true, one becomes old, but this is not the problem: the problem is how one becomes old. If we live this time of life as a grace, and not with resentment; if we accept the time (even a long one) in which we experience diminished strength, the increasing fatigue of the body, the reflexes no longer what they were in our youth — with a sense of gratitude and thankfulness — well then, old age too becomes an age of life which, as Romano Guardini taught us, is truly fruitful and capable of radiating goodness.

Angelo Scola highlights the human and social value of grandparents. I have often emphasized how the role of grandparents is of fundamental importance for the balanced development of the young, and ultimately for a more peaceful society. Because their example, their words, their wisdom can

instill in the young a far-sighted vision, the memory of the past, and the anchoring in values that endure.

Amid the frenzy of our societies, often devoted to the ephemeral and the unhealthy taste for appearances, the wisdom of grandparents becomes a shining beacon, shedding light on uncertainty and providing direction to grandchildren, who can draw from their experience something "extra" for their daily lives.

The words that Angelo Scola dedicates to the theme of suffering, which often takes hold in becoming old, and consequently to death, are precious gems of faith and hope. In the reflections of this brother bishop, I hear echoes of the theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar and Joseph Ratzinger — a theology "done on one's knees," steeped in prayer and in dialogue with the Lord.

This is why I said earlier that these are pages born "from the thought and the affection" of Cardinal Scola: not only from thought, but also from the emotional dimension, which is the one to which Christian faith points, since Christianity is not so much an intellectual act or a moral choice, but rather the affection for a person — that Christ who came to meet us and decided to call us friends.

It is precisely the conclusion of these pages by Angelo Scola, a heartfelt confession of how he is preparing himself for the final encounter with Jesus, that gives us a consoling certainty: death is not the end of everything, but the beginning of something. It is a new beginning, as the title wisely highlights, because eternal life, which those who love already begin to experience on earth within the daily tasks of life — is beginning something that will never end.

And it is precisely for this reason that it is a "new" beginning, because we will live something we have never fully lived before: eternity.

With these pages in hand, I would ideally like to repeat the same gesture I made just after donning the white robe of the papacy in the Sistine Chapel: to embrace with great esteem and affection my brother Angelo — now, both of us older than we were on that day in March 2013. But still united by the gratitude to this loving God who offers us life and hope at every age of our living.

Pope Francis
Vatican City, February 7, 2025



267TH BISHOP OF ROME: POPE LEO XIV

HABEMUS PAPAM! We have a Pope!



Robert Francis, Cardinal Prevost, was Prefect of the Dicastery for the Bishops. The first Augustinian Pope, Leo XIV is the second Roman Pontiff, after Pope Francis, from the Americas. Unlike Jorge Mario Bergoglio, however, the 69-year-old Robert Francis Prevost is from the northern part of the continent, though he spent many years as a missionary in Peru before being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms.

First Augustinian Pope

The new Bishop of Rome was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph. He spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where in 1977 he earned a Degree in Mathematics and also studied Philosophy.

On September 1 of the same year, Prevost entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago, and made his first profession on September 2, 1978. On August 29, 1981, he made his solemn vows. The future Pontiff received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At the age of 27, he

was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica by Archbishop Jean Jadot, then pro-president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians, which later became the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and then the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

Prevost obtained his licentiate in 1984 and the following year, while preparing his doctoral thesis, was sent to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru (1985–1986). In 1987, he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine" and was appointed vocation director and missions director of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Olympia Fields, Illinois (USA).

Mission in Peru

The following year, he joined the mission in Trujillo, also in Peru, as director of the joint formation project for Augustinian candidates from the vicariates of Chulucanas, Iquitos, and Apurímac.

Over the course of eleven years, he served as prior of the community (1988–1992), formation director (1988–1998), and instructor for professed members (1992–1998), and in the Archdiocese of Trujillo as judicial vicar (1989–1998) and professor of Canon Law, Patristics, and Moral Theology at the Major Seminary “San Carlos y San Marcelo.” At the same time, he was also entrusted with the pastoral care of Our Lady Mother of the Church, later established as the parish of Saint Rita (1988–1999), in a poor suburb of the city, and was parish administrator of Our Lady of Monserrat from 1992 to 1999.

In 1999, he was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province of “Mother of Good Counsel” in Chicago, and two and a half years later, the ordinary General Chapter of the Order of Saint Augustine, elected him as Prior General, confirming him in 2007 for a second term.

In October 2013, he returned to his Augustinian Province in Chicago, serving as director of formation at the Saint Augustine Convent, first councilor, and provincial vicar—roles he held until Pope Francis appointed him on November 3, 2014, as Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Chiclayo, elevating him to the episcopal dignity as Titular Bishop of Sufar. He entered the Diocese on November 7, in the presence of Apostolic Nuncio James Patrick Green, who ordained him Bishop just over a month later, on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary.

His episcopal motto is “In Illo uno unum”—words pronounced by Saint Augustine in a sermon on Psalm 127 to explain that “although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one.”

Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, from 2015 to 2023

On September 26, 2015, he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo by Pope Francis. In March 2018, he was elected second vice-president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, where he also served as a member of the Economic Council and president of the Commission for Culture and Education.

In 2019, Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy (July 13, 2019), and in 2020, a member of the Congregation for Bishops (November 21). Meanwhile, on April 15, 2020, he was also appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Callao.

Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops

On January 30, 2023, the Pope called him to Rome as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, promoting him to the rank of Archbishop.



Created Cardinal in 2024

Pope Francis created him Cardinal in the Consistory of September 30 that year and assigned him the Diaconate of Saint Monica. He officially took possession of it on January 28, 2024.

Meanwhile, on October 4, 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as a member of the Dicasteries for Evangelization (Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches), for the Doctrine of the Faith, for the Eastern Churches, for the Clergy, for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for Culture and Education, for Legislative Texts, and of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State.

Finally, on February 6 of this year, the Argentine Pope promoted him to the Order of Bishops, granting him the title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano.

Three days later, on February 9, he celebrated the Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, the second major event of the Holy Year of Hope.

During the most recent hospitalization of his predecessor at the “Gemelli” hospital, Prevost presided over the Rosary for Pope Francis's health in Saint Peter's Square on March 3.

Source: Vatican News

Pope Leo XIV's first words to the world: “Peace be with you.”

MAY THE MONTH OF MARY

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

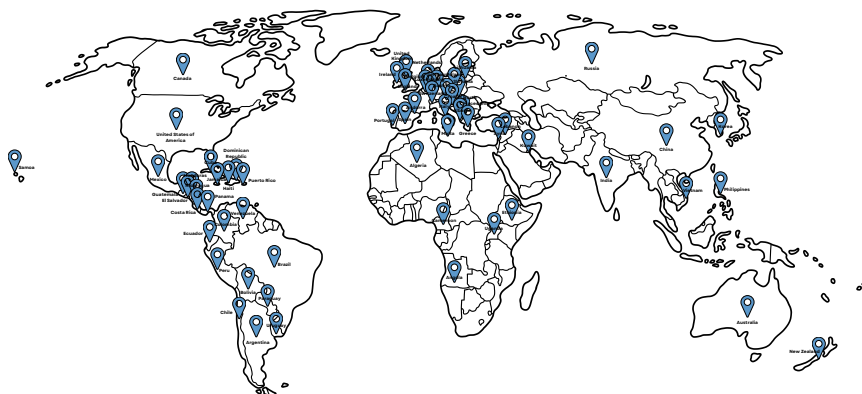


The dedication of May to Mary is a long-standing tradition of piety and devotion within the Church, with papal encouragement and the spiritual understanding of Mary as a powerful intercessor and guide to Christ. During May we take time to pray, reflecting upon the role of our spiritual mother within Jesus' life and our own Christian faith.

Mary has many patronages, from towns, countries, and religious orders. She is also the patron saint of childbirth, motherhood, nuns, the sick, young women, fishmongers, harness makers, seafarers (Our Lady, Star. of the Sea), bicyclists (Madonna del Ghisallo), pilots and aviators (Our Lay of Loreto), overseas Filipino Workers (Our lady of Guidance), Brothers Hospitallers of Saint John of God, and Cistercians.

Many Diocese claim Mary's patronage, in particular Sydney (Our Lady Help of Christians), and Toowoomba (Mary of the Southern Cross)

Countries claiming Mary's Patronage:



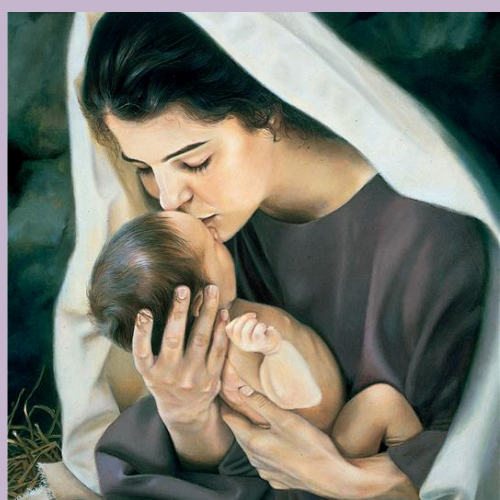
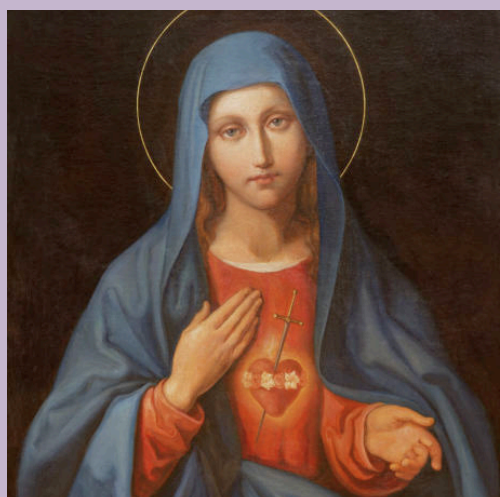
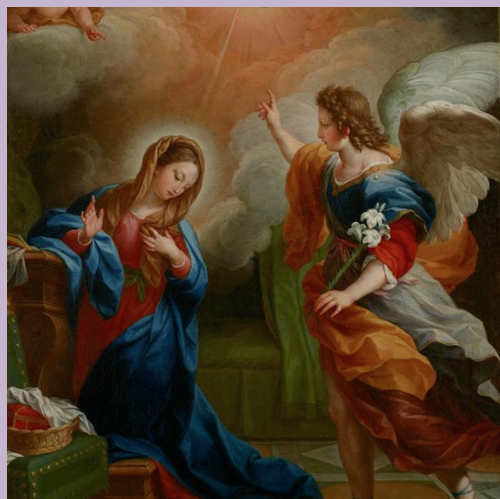
Feast days of Mary:

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: 1st January
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor: 8th January
- Presentation of the Lord: 2nd February
- Our Lady of Lourdes: 11th February
- The Annunciation: 25th March
- Our Lady of Fatima: 13th May
- The Visitation: 31st May
- Our Mother of Perpetual Help: 27th June
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel: 16th July
- The Assumption: 15th August
- Queenship of Mary: 22nd August
- Birth of Mary: 8th September
- The Most Holy Name of Mary: 12th September
- Our Lady of Sorrows: 15th September
- Our Lady of the Rosary: 7th October
- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 21st November
- Immaculate Conception: 8th December
- Our Lady of Guadalupe: 12th December

Luke 1:26-38

'Six months after Elizabeth knew she was to become a mother, Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth. Nazareth was a town in the country of Galilee. He went to a woman who had never had a man. Her name was Mary. She was promised in marriage to a man named Joseph. Joseph was of the family of David. The angel came to her and said, "You are honoured very much. You are a favoured woman. The Lord is with you. You are chosen from among many women." When she saw the angel, she was troubled at his words. She thought about what had been said. The angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid. You have found favour with God. See! You are to become a mother and have a Son. You are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great. He will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the place where His early father David sat. He will be King over the family of Jacob forever and His nation will have no end." Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I have never had a man." The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come on you. The power of the Most High will cover you. The holy Child you give birth to will be called the Son of God. "See, your cousin Elizabeth, as old as she is, is going to give birth to a child. She was not able to have children before, but now she is in her sixth month. For God can do all things." Then Mary said, "I am willing to be used of the Lord. Let it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel went away from her.'

Luke 1:26-38





Jubilee Prayer 2025



Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth, To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

A photograph of a modern church building with a large cross on the roof and a group of people walking towards the entrance. The church has a distinctive design with a large, multi-paned stained glass window above the entrance. The walls are made of light-colored stone or brick. A group of people, including men, women, and children, are walking on a path leading to the church entrance. Some are wearing casual clothing, while others are in more formal attire. The sky is overcast.

What's On

IN WINTER AND SPRING

Upcoming groups, events and occasions in our Parish. Including the Upper Room Youth Group, Sacramental Programs, Young Adult Formation and more...



coming up

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

ASPIRE - YOUNG ADULT FORMATION

Young Adult Spiritual Formation with Bishop Greg is held monthly in Lismore at **5:30pm**. The winter dates are **Thursday 12th June, Thursday 3rd July, and Tuesday 5th August**.

UPPER ROOM YOUTH GROUP

Sunday afternoons 6:00-8:00pm during school term, held in the Parish Upper Room, for ages 13-17 years.

SHINE GATHERING - YOUTH

The Diocesan School's Youth Gathering will be held in Coffs Harbour on the **Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd August 2025**.

IGNITE CONFERENCE

Sydney Conference will be **10-13th July** at Broken Bay Cathedral Precinct, Waitara. Brisbane Conference will be held **25-28th September** at St. Laurence's College Brisbane.

ACYF - YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

From **30th November to 2nd December** the 2025 Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be held in Melbourne Victoria.

RCIYP

Are you a teen looking to make your Sacraments? Contact Kailani to join the RCIYP Program.

PENTECOST PILGRIMAGE

Join us on our youth pilgrimage in this **Pentecost Sunday, 8th June**.

BIBLE IN 8 WEEKS - ADAM TO JESUS

Explore Salvation history using a colour coded timeline of the 12 time periods and video presentations by Jeff Cavins. **Commencing Monday, 28th July from 5:30-7:00pm**.

AFTERNOON WITH BISHOP GREG

Mark **2:00pm Saturday 2nd August** in your calendars as Bishop Greg joins us.



PENTECOST

PILGRIMAGE

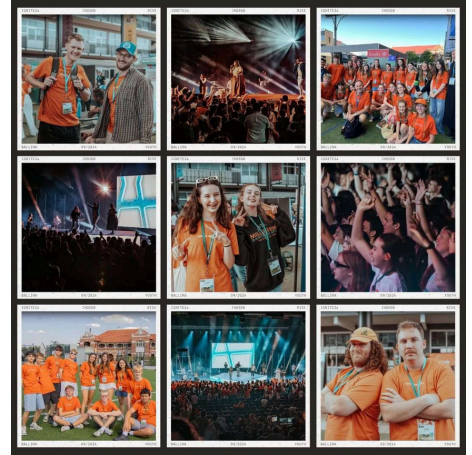
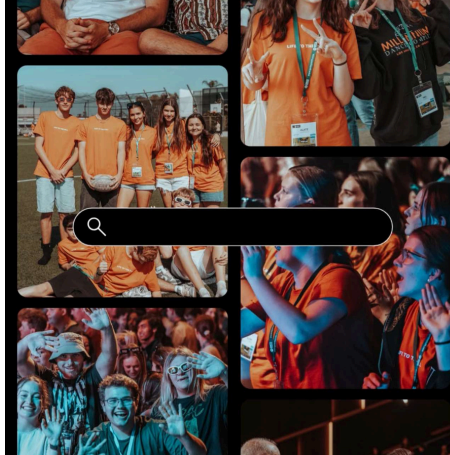


THE PILGRIMAGE WILL TAKE PLACE IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

PORT MACQUARIE - COFFS HARBOUR - BALLINA

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION:






**2024 NATION WIDE
ROSARY CHAIN**

**11:00AM, SATURDAY
12TH OCTOBER**

**BEACHFRONT PARK
OPPOSITE THE HOLY
FAMILY CHURCH,
LENNOX HEAD**

SAINT OF THE WEEK

**SAINT
MATTHEW**

BALLINA.YOUTH

TERM THREE



RECAP

ASPIRE

**09/10
5:30PM**

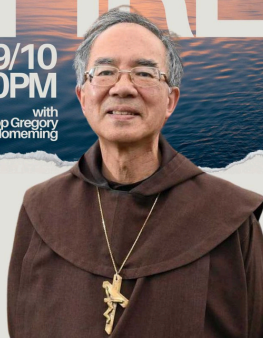
with
Bishop Gregory Homering

Young Adult Spiritual
Formation (18-35 yrs)

Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm
in Lismore

or

Join the Zoom Meeting
ZOOM ID: 299 665 7662



**JUPPER
ROOM**

youth group

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER
6:00-8:00PM
DINNER : FUN : GAMES



**EXPLORE
meaning
life
faith**

Alpha

**Thursdays
5:30 to
7:30pm**

connection · content · conversation

Spiritual Formation:
17th October - 5th December

At St. Francis Xavier Admin
Centre Ballina

Dinner will be provided.

Scan the QR code to RSVP by
Monday 14th October



BALLINA.YOUTH

INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK

Give us a follow on Instagram @ballina.youth to keep up to date on youth group, young adults and all things youth in our Parish!

UPPER ROOM

Youth Group



High School Students:

Years 7 - 12

Every Sunday during term time

6:00pm - 8:00pm

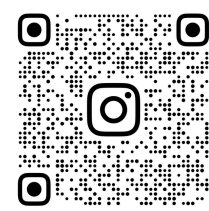
St. Francis Xavier Parish Upper
Room

Term 3 Dates:

27th July

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st August

7th, 14th, 21st, September



BALLINA.YOUTH

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." - Psalm 91:1

ASPIRE

Young Adult Spiritual Formation with Bishop Greg Homeming, OCD (18-35)

5:30 - 6:30 PM

MAR

06

THURSDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

APR

03

THURSDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

MAY

21

WEDNESDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

JUN

12

THURSDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

JUL

03

THURSDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

AUG

05

TUESDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

SEP

11

THURSDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

OCT

02

THURSDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

NOV

20

THURSDAY

*Doyle House,
Lismore*

Join us in person or via the ZOOM ID: 299 665 7662

For more information contact Sr. Di, CM 0405 327 153 youth@stcarthages.org.au

IGNITE CONFERENCE 25 NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

In the Light



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

Streams for kids, high schoolers, young adults and deeper formation for adults 25+



Powerful Speakers

Live worship with Emmanuel Worship

Engaging Workshops

Inspiring Rallies

greater
sydney
JULY 10-13

brisbane
SEPT 25-28



Hosted in & supported by
The Diocese of Broken Bay



Hosted in & supported by
The Archdiocese of Brisbane



**Be in the room
Bring a group
Sponsor a delegate
Bring a friend**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC

Year 9 –
25 years
plus leaders



**BE EMPOWERED
TO LIVE
YOUR FAITH**

**EXPERIENCE
THE BREADTH
OF THE CHURCH**

YOUTH FESTIVAL

**CONNECT
WITH OTHER
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**DEEPEN YOUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS**

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

• 30 NOV – 2 DEC 2025

ACYF.COM.AU
📷📱/ACYF25



Commitment to Safeguarding Statement

The emotional, physical and spiritual well-being and dignity of all people is an integral part of the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Lismore is committed and dedicated to safeguarding all those within our community, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Diocese of Lismore is committed to fostering communities of safety and care. We acknowledge our legal, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to care for - and uphold the dignity and rights of - children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

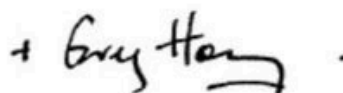
The Diocese of Lismore has;

1. a zero tolerance to the abuse or neglect of children, young people or vulnerable adults and commits to acting in their best interests at all times;
2. established a policy and developed a range of procedures that work together to protect, and, where required, to respond immediately and compassionately to any harm, or risk of harm; and
3. safeguarding procedures and practices underpinned by legislation – ensuring ongoing compliance, accountability and transparency in all ministries undertaken by the Church.

Creating safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families and communities. Safe environments are marked by collaboration, vigilance and a proactive approach to safeguarding. Workers have a responsibility to safeguard children, young people and the vulnerable through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment. All workers, including clergy, employees and volunteers are to be educated as to their responsibilities to undertake their roles in a way that enhances a safe and caring environment.



BISHOP of LISMORE
— GREGORY HOMEMING OCD —

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Homeming'.

19th May, 2020



Diocese of Lismore

is committed to implementing the Child Safe Standards



STANDARD 1

Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture



STANDARD 3

Families and communities are informed and involved



STANDARD 2

Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

STANDARD 4

Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account



STANDARD 5

People working with children are suitable and supported



STANDARD 6

Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused



STANDARD 7

Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training



STANDARD 8

Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur

STANDARD 9

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved



STANDARD 10

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe

For more information on the
Child Safe Standards visit
www.ocg.nsw.gov.au



Office of the
Children's Guardian



SUPPORT SERVICES



care | protect | act

Child Protection Hotline
13 21 11 (24 hours/7 days)

NSW Police Emergency
000 (24 hours/7 days)

NSW Victims Access Line: 1800 633 063

NSW Victims Support Scheme:
www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au
Counselling, financial support and a recognition payment to victims of a violent crime in NSW.

Child Wise
1800 991 099



Phone and online counselling for all forms of childhood abuse - www.childwise.org.au

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

Information and support for mental health.

www.beyondblue.org.au



Headspace: Free counselling services to help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health) alcohol and other drug services - headspace.org.au/



Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800.
24/7 phone and online counselling for young people aged 5-25.

www.kidshelpline.com.au



Lifeline: 13 11 14

Crisis support 24/7.

www.lifeline.org.au



Link Up NSW
Aboriginal Corporation
1800 624 332

(not available to mobiles)
or **02 9421 4700**. Counselling, healing and culturally appropriate support for Indigenous Australians -
www.linkupNSW.org.au



MensLine Australia
1300 789 978

Phone/online support.
www.mensline.org.au



Youth Beyond Blue
1300 224 636

Information and support for young people about issues associated with mental health conditions.

www.youthbeyondblue.com



ABUSE OF ELDERLY / DISABLED

NSW ageing and disability Abuse Hotline
1800 628 221

BULLYING

Bullying No Way:
bullyingnoway.gov.au/



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence Line: 1800 656 463

1800 Respect: 1800 737 732
www.1800respect.org.au/



Services Australia
www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/family-and-domestic-violence



ONLINE SAFETY

eSafety Guide: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>



SEXUAL ABUSE

NSW Rape Crisis: 1800 424 017
Health Sexual Assault Services.
www.health.nsw.gov.au/

Sexual Assault Counselling Australia
1800 211 028. Telephone counselling.
www.sexualassaultcounselling.org.au

Bravehearts Inc
1800 272 831

Advice and support to those affected by sexual assault.
www.bravehearts.org.au



Blue Knot Foundation
1300 657 380. For adult survivors of child abuse. blueknot.org.au



Survivors and Mates
Support Network
1800 472 676.

For male survivors of childhood sexual abuse and their families.
www.sexualassaultcounselling.org.au



Interrelate: 1300 473 528
Counselling and support for those affected by institutional child sexual abuse. www.interrelate.org.au



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment |
SafeWork NSW
www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/sexual-harassment





JUBILEE 2025

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

DECEMBER 2024

24 December

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



Photo Vatican Media

JANUARY 2025

24-26 January

Jubilee of the World of Communications

FEBRUARY 2025

8-9 February

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

15-18 February

Jubilee of Artists and the World of Culture

21-23 February

Jubilee of Deacons

MARCH 2025

8-9 March

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

28 March

24 Hours for the Lord

28-30 March

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

APRIL 2025

5-6 April

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers

25-27 April

Jubilee of Teenagers

28-29 April

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

MAY 2025

1-4 May

Jubilee of Workers

4-5 May

Jubilee of Entrepreneurs

10-11 May

Jubilee of Bands and Popular Entertainment

12-14 May

Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

16-18 May

Jubilee of Confraternities

30 May - 1 June

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly



JUNE 2025

7-8 June

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

9 June

Jubilee of the Holy See

14-15 June

Jubilee of Sport

20-22 June

Jubilee of Governments

23-24 June

Jubilee of Seminarians

25 June

Jubilee of Bishops

25-27 June

Jubilee of Priests

JULY 2025

28 July - 3 August

Jubilee of Youth

SEPTEMBER 2025

15 September

Jubilee of Consolation

20 September

Jubilee of Justice

26-28 September

Jubilee of Catechists

OCTOBER 2025

4-5 October

Jubilee of the Missions

4-5 October

Jubilee of Migrants

8-9 October

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

11-12 October

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

27 October - 2 November

Jubilee of the World of Education



NOVEMBER 2025

16 November

Jubilee of the Poor

22-23 November

Jubilee of Choirs

DECEMBER 2025

14 December

Jubilee of Prisoners



VISIT THE WEBSITE

PARISH MASS TIMES

LENNOX HEAD HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

- SUNDAY, 7.30 AM

BALLINA ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

- SATURDAY VIGIL, 5.30 PM
- SUNDAY, 9.00 AM
- SUNDAY, 11.00 AM
- TUESDAY TO FRIDAY, 12:00 PM

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

- FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 3:00PM

YOUTH MASS

- SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 5:00PM

RECONCILIATION TIMES

- SATURDAY, 9:00AM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- FRIDAY, 11:00 AM

MONTHLY PARISH CUPPA

- FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 10:00 AM

UPPER ROOM YOUTH GROUP

- SUNDAY, 6:00 PM

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

- MONDAY TO FRIDAY,
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Phone: 6681 1048

Fax: 6686 8774

Email: admin@sfxballina.org.au

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