

NEOTÈS

M A G A Z I N E

*SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA
BY THE YOUTH, FOR THE YOUTH*





SFX YOUTH

Following the 5:30pm Mass, the St. Francis Xavier Youth Group is held at the Ballina Parish during school term for local High School students.

The Youth Group is a warm and welcoming group, who aim to provide a sense of community, culture and belonging to the St. Francis Xavier Parish through development of their social and spiritual needs.

The Parish Youth Group has an Instagram Page: “SFX_YOUTH” and throughout the year is regularly updated with photos and videos from Youth Group, events and any partnerships with the schools.



@SFX_YOUTH



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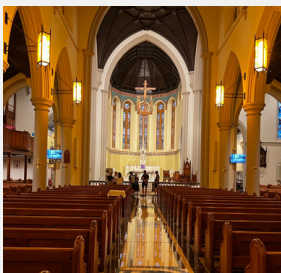
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BALLINA PARISH

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH, BALLINA



The St Francis Xavier Ballina Parish 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.

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

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.



It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, not the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.
St Francis Xavier

MEET OUR YOUTH MINISTERS

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC
PARISH, BALLINA



Brendon Clarke

Xavier College Youth
Minister

John Kearney

Ballina Parish
Pastoral Associate

Kailani Tiernan

Ballina Parish Youth
Coordinator

Oliver Dwyer

Richmond Regional
Ministry Assistant

The Ballina Parish has been running a youth group since 2015 in conjunction with the parish priests and local Youth Ministers. We have a team of experienced Leaders who have worked in both Parish and School roles as Youth Ministers, participated in Diocesan run events, attended the Australian Catholic Youth Festival and recently represented the Parish at World Youth Day in Portugal.

These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture,[a] to exhorting, to teaching.” 1 Timothy 4:11-13



Brendon, John and Kailani were among the 35 pilgrims from the Lismore Diocese that attended World Youth Day in Portugal last year. They spent 8 days journeying across Spain before joining young people from around the globe and Pope Francis in Lisboa for a week of prayer, worship and celebration.

YOUTH GROUP

BY THE SPIRIT OF FAITH

The St. Francis Xavier Youth Group is 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. Following the Saturday 5:30pm Mass, the Youth Group is held in the Ballina Parish Upper Room from 6:30-8:00pm, during school term for local High School students.

At Youth Group each week, we discuss the life a particular saint. Learning about the lives of saints is important in inspiring us to lead lives for God.

The first Youth Group of the year saw us explore the life of Saint Scholastica as it coincided with her Feast Day. We discussed the themes of compassion, community, hospitality and respect. We played some icebreaker games including 'Space Jump', which was very popular, and a few rounds of 'Capture the Loaves'.

In week two we explored the life of Saint Francis Xavier and worked together to complete an intense activity of 'Who Am I? Around the World'. We discussed the Jesuit values of compassion, courage, service and stewardship, and reflected on the scripture from Luke 5:27-32, 'Follow Me'. We ended



YOUTH GROUP

UPDATE CONTINUED...

the night with a few different chair games, the competition was very tough.

In week three we looked into the life of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (aka Padre Pio). We discussed the themes of humility, loyalty and respect for others without preferences, looking to the Gospel of Matthew (5:43-48) to read about Love for Enemies. We started our Youth Group Photo Wall, with memories from over the years, played a few rounds of 'Spoons', and revisited 'Space Jump' again to end the night.

We also named our Youth Group Mascot, Logan the Lamb, who will be appearing throughout the year on our digital platforms, "sfx_youth" on both Instagram and Facebook. We regularly update these platforms with photos and videos from Youth Group, events and any partnerships with the schools, as well as use it to communicate if Youth Group is occurring or not.

The Youth Group is looking forward to attending the Encounter Rally next month.

Reminder: Pick up after youth group is from 8:00-8:10pm in the Parish carpark. Please be present so that everyone can get home promptly.



SAINTS THIS MONTH

“The saints inspire us to lead joyful lives; they serve as role models; they teach us that holiness means being who you are; and—as an added benefit—they pray for us from their posts in heaven.” - James Martin, SJ for Loyola Press

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER



Image: The miracles of St. Francis Xavier Peter Paul Rubens | photo by mAG-VIH-g_RNA of Google Cultural Institute

Feast: 3rd December

Patron Saint of foreign missions, missionaries, navigators, parish missions

Saint Francis Xavier, was one of Saint Ignatius Loyola’s first companions and a founder of the Society of Jesus, aka the Jesuits. He was one of the first to use the Spiritual Exercises to deepen his faith and embodied the Jesuit values of compassion, courage, service and stewardship. He is sometimes referred to as the ‘Apostle of the East’, and took his ministry far and wide through countries such as Venice, Rome, Portugal, Mozambique, India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan. He spent a decade travelling, preaching, converting, catechising, building churches baptising and miracle working through these countries and it is estimated that Francis Xavier travelled over 61,000 km on land and sea, and baptised 30,000 souls. He fell ill and dies on the island of Shangchuan, just off the coast of mainland China at the age of 46. His uncorrupted body was returned to Goa, India where he has spent much of his ministry, and his right arm was sent to the Gesu, the Jesuit church in Rome.

SAINTS THIS MONTH

*SAINT
PADRE
PIO*



*Image: Feast of Padre Pio | photo by
<https://sandradi.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/padrepio.jpg>*

Feast: 23rd September

Patron Saint of adolescents and civil defence volunteers

Pio of Pietrelcina, widely known as Padre Pio, was an Italian Capuchin friar, priest, stigmatist, and mystic. He is venerated as a saint in the Catholic Church, celebrated on 23 September. Pio joined the Capuchins at fifteen and spent most of his religious life in the convent of San Giovanni Rotondo. He is known for his work with the poor and his great piety and humility. He received many spiritual gifts, including the gifts of bilocation, reading of souls, and the stigmata. Many miracles are attributed to him both during his life and after his death.

“Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.”



*Image: The love of st. scholastica | photo by
<https://recherchecatholic.wordpress.com/2017/02/10/the-love-of-st-scholastica-and-others/>*

SAINT SCHOLASTICA

Feast: 10th February

Patron Saint of nuns, schools, tests, reading, convulsive children.

Saint Scholastica, was the twin sister to St. Benedict and is viewed as the mother of Western monasticism. She started the first convent of Benedictine nuns near Monte Cassino (modern day Italy) and she endorsed the significance of communion with one others and holy friendships through God. Benedict and Scholastica would meet once a year to matter of spiritual relevance, sacred texts and issues, as well as participate in prayer and worship to God.

“I asked you and you would not listen; so I asked my God and he did listen.”



BISHOP GREG'S LENTEN TALKS

THEMES OF SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Bishop Greg is holding his Lenten Talks in St Mary's Chapel, Lismore 6.00pm on Monday 19th, 26th February and 11th March. Please note there will be no talk on Monday 4th March. Some of our young adults in the Parish have been in attendance to the last two talks, where the Bishop discussed themes from St Thérèse of Lisieux, a report by one of our young adults follows:

Spirituality begins by being an experience of God, and how it is distinct and grounded in somebody's own experience of the Living God. St Thérèse inspires us to find God in our vulnerabilities and weaknesses, that God meets us in the complexity of what it means to be human. The Apostolic Exhortation, '*C'est la confiance*' discusses that spirituality leads to the Love that grants everything, "the

wellspring of grace overflows into our lives.”

Thérèse was raised in a France facing the effects of Jansenism and its pessimistic view of human nature which was seen to be leading to the denial of free will in human beings. They taught that “all his life long, a man must do penance for original sin.” This ideology that human beings couldn’t refuse grace leads to the denial of the universality of the salvation gained by the death of Christ, turning instead to extreme acts of penance for the original sin, this was deemed a heresy. As the Bishop stated, “You cannot do what Jesus has already done by dying on the Cross”. Thérèse’s spirituality of finding God in one’s own weaknesses highly juxtaposed the attitude and way of life at the time, one that had little tolerance for human fragility.

Thérèse says she is called to God by “the elevator of love and not by the stairway of fear”. She explains her experience with God like a father descending the stairs to pick up an infant and carry them to the top. That in our weaknesses and vulnerabilities, God makes Himself known. Charity is one of the three theological virtues (along with faith and hope), and it is “by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God” (Catechism of the Catholic Church). This love is what Thérèse expressed in her three attitudes; surrender, abandonment and gratitude, that lead us towards accepting God’s Divine Love. By abandoning oneself entirely to God, just as a child entrusts themselves to their father, we are able to accept God’s eternal love.

We learnt about Thérèse’s three manuscripts and her connections with her sisters. As the youngest child she remembered much about their time as a family before joining the

Carmelites. She wrote Manuscript A: a memoir of her childhood in 1895 for her sisters, a reinterpretation of her life in God’s Merciful Love. She then wrote Manuscript B: a souvenir of her last private retreat in 1896 at her elder sister’s bequest, before writing Manuscript C: a reflection of her religious life in 1897 for Mother Gonzague. Her third manuscript wasn’t completely written by her as towards the end of her life she struggled to hold a pen, and was interviewed in order to finish it. It became part of her memoir ‘Story of a Soul’, and expresses some of her most sublime thoughts about the practice of charity.

Thérèse of Lisieux stands out as a Saint and a Doctor of the Church by her reflections and understanding of spirituality and the consequences of this. She recognised that her response to her experiences with God are of great importance, and that her vulnerabilities are why she experienced God. “I want to experience love, the way God loves me”. She had a life lived as a consequence of her experiences of God.

Kailani Tiernan



“Charity gave me the key to my vocation... the Church had a Heart, and that this Heart was burning with love”

WHAT'S ON



Parish Mass Times

Ballina St Francis Xavier Church

- Saturday Vigil– 5.30 pm
- Sunday – 9.00 am
- Sunday – 11.00 am
- Tuesday to Friday - 12:00 noon

Lennox Head Holy Family Church

- Sunday –7.30 am

Reconciliation is 9:00am Saturdays at the Ballina St Francis Xavier Church

Abide - Young Adult Retreat

The Diocese of Lismore is hosting a Young Adult Retreat weekend (18-35yrs) 'Abide' with formation from Bishop Greg Homeming OCD. This event will be held from the 12 April, 6 PM to 14 April, 1 PM at Invercauld House, 163 Invercauld Road, Goonellabah, 2480, NSW. We would love to see you there so please fill in this registration form so we can reserve you a spot and invite your friends. Registration will close on Sunday the 31st of March 2024. The event is free of cost.

Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SHY8JmT0XKXxLXL2Ea-es8ofr5gvLm_DXOU2_Z4geBU/edit

For more information contact Sr. Di, CM at youth@lismore.catholic.org.au or 02 66260253


Stations of the Cross

5:30pm Fridays during Lent
at the Ballina St Francis
Xavier Church



YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT
12-14 APRIL 2024
INVERCAULD HOUSE
163 Invercauld Road, Goonellabah

REGISTER HERE



ABIDE
"do whatever he tells you"

PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE 15 MARCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
PARISH OFFICE: 02 66260253
Email: youth@lismore.catholic.org.au



Image: Wildfire performance | photo by Proclaim Lismore

Encounter Youth Rally - Youth Group

Encounter Rally is a community building event designed to involve students in a night of contemporary and dynamic faith formation. For High School Students, this high energy faith event, will include dinner, speakers and music from the Diocesan band Wildfire. The theme of the night is “Famous 4”, reflecting on the life and importance of Jesus in this time of Lent.

The Youth Group has been invited to attend this upcoming Rally next month, where we will meet students from the other nearby Parishes.

LEAD 2024 - Lismore Diocese Event

LEAD is a Catholic leadership conference for students in Years 11 and 12 who are keen to be involved in Senior Youth Ministry in their school community.

Experience exciting games, powerful talks and testimonies, fun workshops and activities and some incredible worship from the Diocesan band Wildfire.

If this sounds like something for you, contact your school's CYM for more information, and to express your interest.

Students at Xavier Catholic College can contact the CYM Brendon at: brendon.clarke@lism.catholic.edu.au



Image: LEAD 2019 | photo by David Eyles

Proclaim Lismore News

Religious education that develops student discipleship has been a top priority over the last decade for our Bishops, clergy and schools of the Diocese of Lismore. This has been recognised twice in recent feedback. A review by Br Michael Callinan FMS stated the program has proven to be 'highly committed over the past decade in response to international, national and local directions provided by the Catholic Church regarding young people'.

The Melbourne Archdiocese's Haldane Review of Religious Education Curriculum commended the Diocese of Lismore and its resources as being of 'very high quality for this area which formed part of a project that ran from 2013 to 2020 called *Proclaim Lismore*'. Proclaim Lismore Staff will be focusing on re-engaging lay people post-COVID in the lead-up to the Jubilee Year 2025.



Search 'Proclaim Lismore' for more information.



Resilient Kids Program

Free counselling services are available for children and young people through the Resilient Kids Program. The program provides mental health and trauma-informed support for primary and secondary school-aged children impacted by the March 2022 Northern Rivers flood events. It is funded through a \$10 million grant from the National Emergency Management Agency and is being delivered by Healthy North Coast.

Social Futures delivers counselling services for children and young people and their families that can be accessed through wellbeing hubs situated at: Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Ballina, Lismore, Casino and Kyogle. Ballina Hub is at 32 Swift Street, open Monday to Friday.

For more information call 1800 719 625 or go to socialfutures.org.au/service/resilient-kids

"Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." - John 10:7-10

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.

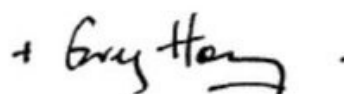
The Diocese of Lismore has;

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 —



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



NEOTĒS

