

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting a traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



St Francis Xavier Church,
Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets,
Ballina

welcome

Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.

**Palm Sunday
(A)**

5th April, 2020



**FROM
FATHER PETER
AND
FATHER ANSELM**

**Parishioners please be assured
of our prayers as we comply
with the government's
restrictions with social
distancing.**

**Every day in our private Masses
we pray that the parish
community will be safe from
the COVID-19 virus, and that
our way of life and the freedom
to attend our Parish Masses will
resume in the near future.**

'We are all in this together'.

**God Bless and keep each of you
Father Peter
Father Anselm**

**Catholics from the Diocese of
Lismore are from 20th March
2020 dispensed from their
Sunday Mass obligation until
further notice.**

From hero to villain

The 'Holy Fire' is a miracle that the Greek orthodox have witnessed every year in Jerusalem on Easter Saturday since AD 810. Their patriarch enters the Holy Sepulcher after hours of prayer and preparation, while the faithful fill the church and many more cram the square outside and surrounding streets.

All the lights are turned off. The belief is that a blue light, not lit by human hand, emanates from within Jesus's tomb, and rises from the marble slab covering the stone bed. The patriarch receives the light and brings it to the faithful. The congregation spends hours in intense prayers and silence. They wait outside until the Holy Fire is seen by everyone. This light then travels to the four corners of the world.

With Palm Sunday, we begin the Holy Week. This week of prayer and penance is for the renewal of our lives which means leaving sin behind and living as Lights with new life at Easter. The readings remind us of the entry of Jesus, on a donkey's back, into Jerusalem while people were singing "Hosanna". This was to fulfill what was prophesied by Zechariah.

"Celebrate incredibly, Daughter Zion! – Yell, Little girl Jerusalem – See, your king comes to you – honorable and victorious – humble and riding on a donkey – on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). But Jesus' entry is not to a throne in a palace but

to the Cross on Calvary.

Pope Francis says that Palm Sunday could be called "bitter sweet". The shouts of "Hosanna" which means "save us" will soon change into shouts, "Crucify him". But the response of Jesus to this shouting is the same. He is neither flattered on Palm Sunday nor furious on Good Friday. A week that begins with celebration and shouts of joy will then move onto another scene where the power of darkness will take charge of Him.

The King of kings will be arrested, scourged, crucified and buried.

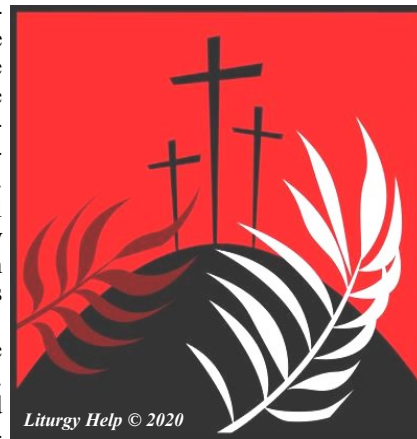
"I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness" (Jn. 12:46). He is the King of all Kings, and yet He was born in Nazareth, a place surprisingly never mentioned in the OT and now He is walking towards the Cross, again a word never mentioned

even once in the OT.

Today, we join the crowd who sang "Hosanna". They were those who had been healed, delivered from various possessions, or even raised from the dead to life. We too have been saved by His Blood. May we who were immersed into the life of Jesus in baptism do not leave Him alone after Palm Sunday, but rather keep awake for the Light.

Manoj Kunnath CSsR

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Liturgy Help © 2020

**Please read Bishop Greg's pastoral letter (page 2)
for information regarding the Sacraments.**

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 204

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney rsj, Email: kathryn@sfxballina.org.au

Email: parishcouncil@sfxballina.org.au

Phone: 6681 1048; Fax: 6686 8774; **Email:** admin@sfxballina.org.au

Mon to Fri 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - 53-57 Cherry Street - **Postal Address: PO Box 46 Ballina 2478**

www.sfxballina.org.au

Library available to parishioners Mon to Fri 9 am - 4 pm;

St Francis Xavier Primary: 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina

Holy Family Primary: 6687 5311 - 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Xavier Catholic College: 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive, Skennars Head

St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: 6687 5961 - 42 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Crowley Care Services: 1300 139 099 - 154 Cherry St, Ballina



BISHOP GREG'S PASTORAL LETTER 27TH MARCH 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The last few weeks have been very difficult for all of us. From the end of January, I've had to remove more and more things from our churches and finally, in the last week have had to cancel Sunday and weekday masses and close our churches. This has been a great sadness for all of us. We have had no choice but to comply with Government directives, which I believe are for our well-being.

I thank you for your patience and on-going commitment to the Church. I know that you have many questions about the sacraments, pastoral care, schools and more generally spiritual well-being.

This Easter, there will be no public masses, however the priests will say masses privately. The Easter Triduum in the Cathedral and some other Parishes will be live-streamed. We will let you know how to access live-streams as soon as possible. The Chrism Mass has been postponed to 17th November 2020.

We are not able to have baptisms until further notice. Should there be an emergency please contact your Parish Priest. We are not using our churches for funerals, however the priest may attend at the place of burial for prayers. Your Parish Priest is willing to say a private funeral mass for your loved one, and will be able to say a funeral mass for you all in church once the danger has lifted.

Weddings are still possible provided that they are restricted to the couple, the two witnesses and the Priest, however it is possible that the directives might change.

In regard to Reconciliation, we are not able to gather groups of people and therefore, the Second Rite of Reconciliation is no longer possible. For the safety of the priest and the penitent, the required social distancing must be followed.

The Church teaches that, when it is impossible to go to Confession, all that is required is an act of contrition and a promise to go to confession in the future.

In regard to Anointing of the Sick and of Viaticum, the Sacred Penitentiary in Rome has advised, "The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and of the Viaticum (Communion), entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the Communion of Saints and granting a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime."

Without specialised protective apparel it would be unsafe for our priests to anoint people with COVID-19. In fact, should they anoint without the appropriate protective apparel they would have to self-isolate for 14 days. As a consequence, we will not be able to anoint people with COVID.

For their own safety, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are not to take Holy Communion to the sick.

Your Parish Priest will continue to provide pastoral care. Please telephone him if there is a need. The Diocese and Parishes are placing material on the internet so that there will be online spiritual support. This includes Mass, prayers and other spiritual items.

Many of our school students are now studying from home. Online teaching is being prepared. Online assistance for parents is also being prepared.

Until the emergency is over, I will offer daily mass for each of you. I will also spend more time in prayer asking Our Heavenly Father to take all fear from your hearts, to fill you with gentleness and peace, to give you and your loved ones His protection and to bring healing to those who contract the virus. I would be very grateful if you would remember me in your prayers.

Most Revd Greg Homeming OCD

Bishop of Lismore

Prayer to end the Pandemic: *May we who are merely inconvenienced; Remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors; Remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home; Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close; Remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips; Remember those that have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market; Remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for quarantine at home; Remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country, let us choose to love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other; Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.* Cameron Bellm

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Marie Jean Akers, pbvm., Martin Boland, Stephen Hill, Cecilio Natural,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Father Charles Kakumanu, Father Steven O'Donnell, Don King, Peter O'Connor,

AND ALSO FOR: Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Thama Walker, Kathleen Kelly, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all faithful departed.

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Pauline McLachlan, Bill Colenso, Michael & Marie Daley, Chanice Wills, Julie Benton, Arthur Potter, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Terry Moore, Margaret Pyne, Kathleen Campbell, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Clements, Charlie Scotcher, (Aunt) Julia Paden, Rev Ray Fishwick, Glenn Campbell, Jan Kelly, Kay Harth, Maria Gorton, Peter & Reba Smidt, Asha Ousby (2 yrs), Jeanie Marie Curry, Fay Kerslake, Darryl Simpkins, Betty Albertini, Hilda Carter, Rosemary Russell, John Moreland, Dympna Sheehy, Greg Shore, John McNamara, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Mal Gillies, Cecelia Waldron, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Moore, Smith, McCowan-Dann, Webber Families, Layton family, Fitch family, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Mick O'Brien, Graham Robertson, Gregory Thomas, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Leisa Wotton, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, Tony Lannan, Kim del-Signore, Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care. (Due to privacy laws, names are only placed on this list when requested, for six weeks)

Parish Notices

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available upon request. Please ring the Parish Office or the Presbytery if you are in need of this Sacrament. Parish Office 6681 1048 Presbytery 6686 2042.

MASS ON YOUTUBE LIVE

You are invited to view Holy Mass from 8.00 am live and on demand from your devices at any time afterwards. You can access the livestream by following the link from lismorediocese.org, or going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing



the camera on your smart device to this digital code:

Join the 1500 people who have viewed Mass this week on line from around the world and tell your friends and family wherever they may be.



MASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

CATH NEWS

www.cathnews.com

Google Catholic Masses and click your choice

AVAILABLE FREE TO AIR ON TV

Channel 10 ~ every Sunday ~ 6.00 am for Mass

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH— PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Due to not being able to attend weekend Masses, parishioner with envelopes wishing to continue their contribution to the parish collection can use alternative methods.

- By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month
- or, by completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office
- or, continue with your envelopes and drop them to the office, perhaps once a month. *Thank you*

ST MARY OF THE CROSS

NOVENA FOR OUR WORLD IN NEED

The warmth of the midday sun has restorative powers, bringing healing and strength to our minds and bodies. You are invited to pause at midday and pray with confident trust for our world that is in need of healing.

Let us be for our world beacons of hope and trust.

May God bless and strengthen us.

Confide all to God.

See how God carries us through the storms. 27.3.1872

Each day of the Novena begin with the appropriate words from St Mary of the Cross

Day 1: The prayer of a humble heart is a powerful weapon. 26.4.1873

Day 2: Have good courage for God is so very good to us all. 6.1.1870

Day 3: Let us never forget that God has done wonders for us and wonderfully protected us in our helplessness. 3.3.1882

Day 4: Do have courage. 15.1.1872

Day 5: God has always helped me and I have more than ever cause to trust in Him. 10.3.1874

Day 6: God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark. 18.1.1899

Day 7: How good God is to us and how much reason we have to be grateful. 22.2.1899

Day 8: In God alone I trust. 12.1874

Day 9: Let us be joyful and thank God. 19.3.1874

Let us pray.

God ever faithful, giver and sustainer of life, you know the depths of our pain as we journey through this time of unknowing.

Hear our voices and the cry of our hearts.

Guide us to the most life-giving ways open to us.

St Joseph, Man of courage, you protected Mary and Jesus when they were in danger.

Cradle us now safely in this same protecting embrace.

May we, like you, extend this care to our world in need.

St Mary of the Cross,

You faced difficult times with a heart filled with trust, Always believing in the watchful presence of God.

Walk with us now in this difficult time,

And may we be for others, examples of confident hope and trust.



St Joseph, and St Mary of the Cross pray with us in this time of need. Amen.

An Act of Spiritual Communion : My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen. melbournecatholic.org.au

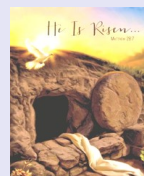
TELEVISION FREE TO AIR GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY AND EASTER SUNDAY MASS

CHANNEL ~ PRIME 7 IN REGIONAL NSW

From ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY

10th April Good Friday from 3.00 pm ~ The Lord's Passion

12th April Easter Sunday Mass from 10.30 am



PROJECT COMPASSION— Week 6

Papua New Guinea

Dominic, 47 is a former teacher and father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with the Caritas Australia's Safe House and Family Anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around. The program provides gender-based violence prevention training, counselling services and safe accommodation for women and children survivors of violence. Now a community trainer, he works with other men to help them to change their behaviour and build more harmonious family lives. Dominic and his wife, Christophylda say that their relationship has been transformed – and their family life is now harmonious, happy and safe.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
 So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
 he provides me with speech.
 Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like
 a disciple.
 The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no
 resistance, neither did I turn away.
 I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to
 those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face
 against insult and spittle.
 The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by
 the insults.
 So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be
 shamed.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm*(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

1. All who see me deride me.
 They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
 let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
 2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
 a band of the wicked beset me.
 They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
 I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
 3. They divide my clothing among them.
 They cast lots for my robe.
 O Lord, do not leave me alone,
 my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
 4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
 and praise you where they are assembled.
 'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
 all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
 Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling
 to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume
 the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being
 as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting
 death, death on a cross.
 But God raised him high and gave him the name
 which is above all other names so that all beings in the
 heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the
 knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should
 acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the
 Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
 Christ became obedient for us even to death
 dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name
 above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Mt 27:11-54 (Short version)*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and
 the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of
 the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he
 was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused
 to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear
 how many charges they have brought against you?' But to
 the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to
 any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a
 prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was
 at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barab-
 bas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or
 Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of
 jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife
 sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I
 have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded
 the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the exe-
 cution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked
 them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for
 you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to
 them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?'
 They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What
 harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let
 him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no
 impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took
 some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and
 said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your con-
 cern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood
 be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas
 for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then
 handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the
 Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him.
 Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet
 cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they
 put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To
 make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the
 Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck
 him on the head with it. And when they had finished mak-
 ing fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in
 his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene,
 Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When
 they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place
 of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall,
 which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had fin-
 ished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by cast-
 ing lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping
 guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read:
 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two
 robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one
 on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and
 said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in
 three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come
 down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes
 and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,'
 they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel;
 let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe
 in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if
 he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even
 the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in
 the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land
 until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried
 out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My
 God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of
 those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is
 calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a
 sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a
 reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and
 see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying
 out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to
 bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split;
 the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy
 men rose from the dead, and these, after his resur-
 rection, came out of the tombs, entered the
 Holy City and appeared to a number of people.
 Meanwhile the centurion, together with the oth-
 ers guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that
 was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In
 truth this was a son of God.' The Gospel of the Lord.



Google image