

# ST FRANCIS XAVIER CONNECT

December 2024

ALL ARE WELCOME ALL BELONG

Issue No.3



## ADVENT 2024

Join one of our Advent Small Groups, Mondays at 2.45pm or Thursdays at 10am. Theme this year is 'Hope Reigns' in preparation for Jubilee Year in 2025.

Come along to the **Parish Advent Reflection morning** on Saturday, December 14 commencing at 9am. Join us for:

- Reflections
- Scripture Rosary
- Reconciliation
- Benediction
- Adoration
- Morning Tea

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 24th Dec  
SFX Church Ballina  
**5.30pm and 7.30pm**  
Christmas Day 25th Dec  
HF Lennox Head **7.30am**  
SFX Ballina **9am & 11am**

## FROM OUR PARISH PRIESTS:

Dear Parishioners,

We want to use this last Connect edition of the year to convey our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support, generosity, and prayers. Our parish thrives because of your love and dedication, whether through your participation in Mass, involvement in ministries, or contributions to the various projects we undertake as a community.

A special thanks goes out to the Faith Formation Team for their dedication in organising various parish spiritual activities. Our first-ever parish Alpha Program was a great success. Your commitment ensures that our parishioners have many great options for their spiritual journey as they grow deeper in their faith.

We are also deeply grateful to the Hospitality Team for always extending a warm and welcoming presence at our parish events, helping to create a strong sense of community. Your care and kindness make our parish a home for all who come through our doors.

To our Sacristians, Acolytes, and Altar Servers, your quiet yet essential service makes our liturgies run smoothly and beautifully. Your behind-the-scenes efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are thankful for your attention to detail and reverence in preparing for our sacred celebrations.

Thanks to the Parish Staff, The Choir, and Volunteers whose tireless efforts keep everything running efficiently. Whether organising events, providing beautiful music for our Masses, maintaining the church, or providing administrative support, your dedication is invaluable to the life of our parish.

Lastly, we thank all parishioners who contribute their time, talent, and treasure in many ways. Your generosity and support have allowed us to expand our outreach, including the new Communion service at Crowley Aged Care, which has been a blessing to the residents there.

May God bless you abundantly for all you do, and may we continue to grow together in faith, hope, and love.

With gratitude,  
Fr Peter and Fr Anselm

# FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

## MURRAY DEEPS, CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

A heartfelt thank you to all parishioners who generously offered their names for nomination to the new Parish Pastoral Council. This enthusiastic response reflects the strength and unity within our St. Francis Xavier Ballina Parish community, and we are pleased to welcome our new council members to their roles.

In the coming months, our Parish Pastoral Council members will engage in a comprehensive formation process. This journey of preparation and growth will empower them to better serve our parish community with dedication and insight. Through this formation, each member will deepen their understanding of pastoral leadership and strengthen their commitment to fostering a welcoming, vibrant parish environment.

We are excited for what lies ahead and for the positive contributions our council members will bring to St. Francis Xavier Parish. Congratulations once again to our new council members, and thank you for your willingness to serve.

*"Christmas is a season that reminds us all of God's immeasurable love for each of us"*

As we reflect on the many blessings in our parish, we are incredibly grateful for the dedicated individuals in both Ballina and Lennox Head Churches who share their gifts, talents, and time for the betterment of our community. Each of you plays an integral role in making our parish a vibrant, welcoming, and spiritually enriching place. To our musicians, singers, and choir members: your dedication brings beauty and depth to our liturgies. The joy and reverence you infuse into our services uplift us all, helping us to connect more deeply with our faith. Thank you for the hours of practice and your commitment to enhancing our worship experience. To our readers, welcomers, plate collectors, sacristans, Eucharist ministers and volunteers who take the Blessed Sacrament to the housebound and sick your service and support make a positive difference to the celebration of the Eucharist.

To the volunteers who support our various ministries – from hospitality and outreach to teaching and youth involvement: your kindness, patience, and generosity touch countless lives. Your willingness to help, often behind the scenes, creates a true sense of family within our parish.

A special acknowledgment also goes to those who serve on committees, coordinate events, or assist with administrative needs. Your organisational skills, creativity, and dedication keep our parish running smoothly, allowing us to offer numerous services and events throughout the year.

We are blessed to have each one of you as part of our parish family. Your love for the church and willingness to serve are inspiring, making a profound difference in the lives of others. Please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated, and we thank you for your continued commitment to enriching our faith community. May God bless you abundantly for the gifts you bring to our parish and for the love you share with us all.

As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, let us rejoice in the profound gift of His love, peace, and hope. Christmas is a season that reminds us of God's immeasurable love for each of us, a love that became flesh and dwelt among us through the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

This holy season is a time to open our hearts to His light and to renew our commitment to love and serve one another, especially those who may feel alone, weary, or in need. May we, as a parish family, radiate Christ's love in our homes, our workplaces, and our community, sharing His peace and hope with everyone we encounter.

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support, faith, and fellowship throughout the year. May the joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts, and may God bless each of you abundantly this Christmas and in the year to come.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas, filled with peace, hope, and love.  
In Christ's love, Murray Deeps

Deacon Gooley's 52 Weeks on the Mass has been a remarkable addition to our parish community's spiritual resources. This book, crafted thoughtfully over a full year, provides an insightful journey through the Mass, guiding readers week by week to a deeper understanding of our sacred traditions.

With accessible language and rich reflections, Deacon Gooley delves into the beauty and meaning of each part of the Mass. His approach encourages readers to cultivate a more profound connection to the liturgy and offers valuable insights that both newcomers and lifelong parishioners can appreciate. The structure of 52 Weeks on the Mass makes it an ideal resource for individual or group study, helping readers engage thoughtfully and prayerfully with each aspect of the Mass.

Deacon Gooley's dedication in creating this guide is a testament to his commitment to our faith community, and his book serves as a wonderful tool for fostering spiritual growth. We thank Deacon Gooley for his work, which enriches our understanding and experience of the Mass each week.





# FROM THE HOLY FAMILY LENNOX HEAD COMMITTEE

SUE HETHERINGTON, CHAIR HFLHC

Holy Family Church is the throbbing heartbeat of Lennox Head. It is where we meet to receive the Eucharist and Sacraments, where children and parents gather in its grounds celebrating the Love Lennox Festival and where older surfers regroup after a surf, sheltering in the sunshine, backs against the wall, before assembling their surf gear and heading home. It is where the car park gate is opened to permit community groups access for nearby events.

For eight weeks I have sorely missed our church, as I cared for my severely ill 93- year-old mum. Thank you for your kind words and prayers which have manifested incredible graces on mum's recovery journey. The Gifts of Service invitation will continue when I return.

St Francis Xavier parishioners were highly visible in Lennox Head on Saturday 12th October, gathering with community members beside the ocean to say a very Public Rosary. Children, youth, young adults and older people assembled on picnic rugs, seats and wheelie walkers. Over 50 people, including Father Richard Foley, came to be still, pray the Rosary and sing Marian hymns. Both the Xavier College Youth Minister and the Parish Youth Coordinator led the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Marie Sullivan beautifully coordinated the Rosary in a public space and Committee members Cheryl and Peter Bowen coordinated morning tea.

St Francis Xavier Parish annually welcomes parishioners, members of other faith traditions and the general public to actively join with 150 countries and 1.5 million Christians, to be one of 25,708 prayer services in 90 languages that travel across every time zone, praying for peace and justice. The event is the World Day of Prayer. I Made You Wonderful is the 2025 theme, to be held on Friday 7th March in St Francis Xavier Church. We will pray for the people of the Cook Islands, in this 97th year of the World Day of Prayer. We invite Cook Island parishioners from or with links to the Cook Islands, their family members and friends to contact us, to share their culture as we pray for them.

Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus welcomes all parishioners to pray together every Tuesday, commencing at 10 a.m. Lennox Head men are invited to join others weekly for prayer and fellowship in the Sacred Heart room. Coordinator Murray Parr is organising an active Men's Retreat on 30th November. Please contact Murray on 0414399658 for further details.

Years ago, lighting destroyed the singular carpark tree shading the visiting priest's car, resulting in barren church grounds. In 2025 the Committee will focus on landscaping. Earlier this year, a visiting past parishioner revealed that her Architect daughter designed the flat roofed section of our Church. The Committee is seeking advice from a parishioner or family member or friends who have landscaping knowledge to work with us in providing foliage in a small space so that bridal couples and guests have a beautiful photo backdrop, there is shade for morning tea and a cool place to gather before and after funerals. Please contact us through the Parish Office.

The following are tangible signs that Holy Family Church is a living Church:

- Weekly Devotion of the Holy Face of Jesus initiated
- St Francis Xavier parishioners monthly dinner held on the last Saturday of the month at Club Lennox
- Weekly morning tea and monthly birthday morning tea after Sunday Mass
- Air Conditioning installed at Holy Family Church and Sacred Heart Room and Improvements to the Sacred Heart Room
- Rendering repairs to Holy Family Church in preparation for painting
- Driveway upgrade.



The Committee members are Cheryl and Peter Bowen, Genevieve Starr and Marie and Kevin Sullivan. I thank them for their enthusiasm and continued commitment to benefit all of us welcomed into Holy Family Church. 2025 promises to be another exhilarating year. We thank Father Peter, Father Anselm and Paul, Bernadette and Kathy from the Parish Office for their unwavering support in helping us to care for Holy Family Church and its people.





# PARISH MINISTRIES

## CROWLEY CARE

October is a popular month at Crowley Care as it is time for our Family Show Day. Residents, staff and family look forward with great expectation to the day and once again this year exceeded expectations in so many incredible ways.

It was a day of joy, connection, and celebration, a huge tribute to the staff, volunteers, and contributors who make this special event possible.

Crowley Care Show Day is a highlight of the year for many of us, and it's clear why - it brings our entire community together in a way that's simply unmatched. Residents, clients, families, staff, and visitors all come together to create lasting memories, experience fun, and share in the joy that defines the event.

What makes Show Day truly special is the feeling of unity and shared experience it fosters. As a community, we come together - great grandchildren, grandchildren, families, staff, and community members alike, all celebrating the spirit of connection. This spirit is reflected in the pure, simple joy on the faces of so many throughout the day.

Show Day is a wonderful opportunity to witness the heart of what we do here at Crowley - an event that brings us all together, celebrating the bonds that connect us to our Parish and the wider community while creating wonderful inspirational living experiences and cherished memories for our residents. By the end of the day, everyone is happily tired but filled with the kind of energy and positive spirit that Show Day brings.

This year's Show Day was no exception! The atmosphere was joyful as residents, clients, staff, and visitors all gathered at Crowley, enjoying a wide variety of activities and entertainment. Big hits this year were the hilarious antics of our juggler, who had everyone in stitches, and the adorable baby animals that stole our hearts. There was something for everyone to enjoy.

The face painting station was as popular as ever, adding to the charm of the day. Truly one of the standout highlights of the day was the presence of so many children, who brought even more warmth and laughter to the occasion.

Show Day is more than just an event—it's a celebration of who we are as a community and a Parish, and a reminder of the joy and connection we share. It's a day that brings us all closer together where we create memories that will last long after the day is done!



## FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

**PAUL LLOYD, PARISH FINANCE MANAGER**

There are several works either recently completed or in the pipeline:

- A carport has been erected in the Parish Administration Carpark. The structure serves to not only protect staff cars but also to provide outdoor shelter for Parish Functions.
- Works are ongoing at the Lennox Head Church.
- The statue of St Francis Xavier and the white cross at the front of the Ballina Church and the statue of Mary in front of Parish Administration have all been restored.
- The bell tower and bell are being restored as the bell fixings had become unstable.
- A bathroom in 1 Byron Street, Lennox Head will be refurbished shortly due to leaks.
- The repair of the exposed steel work at Moriah House is being investigated.
- A major project is being undertaken at Crowley with the construction of twenty six (26) independent living apartments at the end of Florence Price Place





# PARISH MINISTRIES

## PARISH RENEWAL: FAITH FORMATION GROUP

The Faith Formation Team has been busy over the last few months running the Catholic Alpha Australia Program for the 19 participants who signed up. Every Thursday evening dinner is shared followed by a viewing of the alpha talk and small group discussion on topics such as: Who is Jesus and Why Did He Die? How and Why do I Pray? Who is and What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

*The best thing about Alpha is the community aspect and the connections we are making with God and with other parishioners (Alpha participant).*

We thank the parish for their support and prayers and for those who have made donations to help provide dinner each week.

Alpha will be offered again in 2025. Who will you invite?



**ALPHA - EXPLORE LIFE, MEANING, FAITH**  
**REGISTER NOW FOR 2025** Who will you invite?

If you missed one of our programs this year:

- Bible Studies: Quick Journey (8 sessions), Long Journey (24 sessions)
- Eucharist: The Presence (4 sessions)
- The Catholic Faith Explained – Individual DVDs such as:
  - Catholic Social Teaching: Building a Civilization of Love
  - A Catholic Moral Vision: Virtue, Grace & the Path to Happiness
  - Mary And The Saints: Our Spiritual Mother and the Communion of Saints
  - The Holy Spirit And The Life Of Grace: God's Divine Life Within Us

Get in touch and we will do our best to organise a small group at a time and day that suits you. Phone Maxine: 0429 669 029 or register your interest at the Parish office.

### PARISH FAITH FORMATION SURVEY

Thank you to those that responded to our faith formation survey. The results around the types of events, the times and topics will be used to help shape our planning for 2025. Stay tuned for a variety of events and topics in 2025.

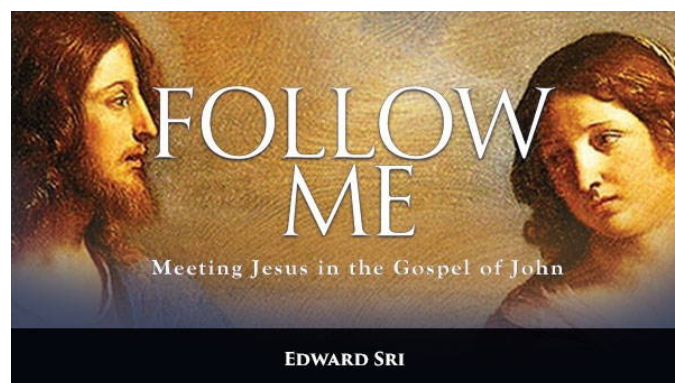
Looking for a 3 Day Retreat in 2025  
Journey with Jesus  
Phone Maxine 0429 669 029  
Lismore Diocesan Cursillo  
Movement

### 2024 ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for this years Advent Reflection Morning on Saturday 14th December 9am at SFX Church Ballina.



### EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF FOLLOWING CHRIST COMING IN 2025



Following Christ takes more than simply believing in him or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer – He wants you to be his disciple and friend. Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks after us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow him. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust him, to open ourselves to his merciful love, and to love others as he has loved us. Follow Me In this study you will....

- Learn what it takes to follow Christ.
- Discover the joy of divine friendship.
- See how God, and only God, can satisfy the deepest desires of the human heart.



# PARISH MINISTRIES

## LENNOX MEN ALIVE

The Lennox menAlive Coffee Mornings have become a beacon of connection, support, and spiritual growth for the men in our community. Held every second Wednesday, these gatherings are more than just a time to share a cup of coffee; they represent an opportunity to check in on one another's mental health, support each other through life's ups and downs, and strengthen our relationships with God and our families.

### A Space for Honest Conversations

At the heart of our coffee mornings is the desire to create a safe, welcoming space for men to talk about their mental health openly. Too often, men feel pressured to handle their struggles alone. At Lennox menAlive, we strive to break this cycle by encouraging honest conversations about the challenges we face—whether related to work, family, or personal well-being. Each session starts with a simple yet powerful "check-in," where we share how we're doing emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. This practice helps us stay attuned to each other's needs and reminds us that we are not alone in our battles.

The strength of these mornings lies in the genuine care and camaraderie we experience. We listen, encourage, and remind each other that it's ok not always to be OK. Together, we provide an environment where vulnerability is met with understanding and where every man is valued.

### Strengthening Families Through Fellowship

Our conversations often extend beyond our own well-being to include the welfare of our families. As husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons, we acknowledge the important roles we play in the lives of our loved ones. The discussions at our coffee mornings help us become more present and supportive in our family relationships. We share advice, offer prayers, and give each other the strength to navigate family challenges with grace and wisdom.

By sharing our stories and experiences, we equip one another to be better leaders within our homes, more loving fathers, and compassionate partners. The fellowship we experience helps us build stronger, healthier families, grounded in love and faith.

### Rooted in God's Word

A central part of our time together is the opportunity to engage with God's Word. Each gathering includes a moment of reflection on Scripture, which serves as the foundation for much of our discussion and personal growth. We take turns reading passages from the Bible, and together, we reflect on how these teachings can be applied in our daily lives.

This spiritual nourishment is essential. It keeps us focused on our faith and reminds us of the importance of leaning on God, especially in times of difficulty. Through the lens of Scripture, we gain new perspectives on how to approach life's challenges, and we are constantly reminded of God's unfailing love and guidance. Whether it's a lesson on forgiveness, trust, or resilience, our discussions help us grow in our relationship with God and shape our attitudes toward life's trials.

### A Call to Join Us

We are always looking for other men to join us in this fellowship, support, and spiritual growth journey. If you're looking for a place to connect, to be heard, and to grow in your faith, we invite you to come along to one of our coffee mornings. No matter where you are in life, you'll find a welcoming group of men who are ready to walk alongside you.

To get involved, simply call Murray Parr at 0414 399 658. We meet every Wednesday fortnight at a local café, and there's always a seat at the table for anyone who wants to join. Together, we can continue to build a community of men who uplift one another, who share in God's Word, and who walk through life with purpose and faith.

In these challenging times, having a supportive community is more important than ever. The Lennox menAlive Coffee Mornings are more than just a routine meeting—they are a lifeline for those seeking connection, strength, and spiritual renewal. We hope to see you at our next gathering!

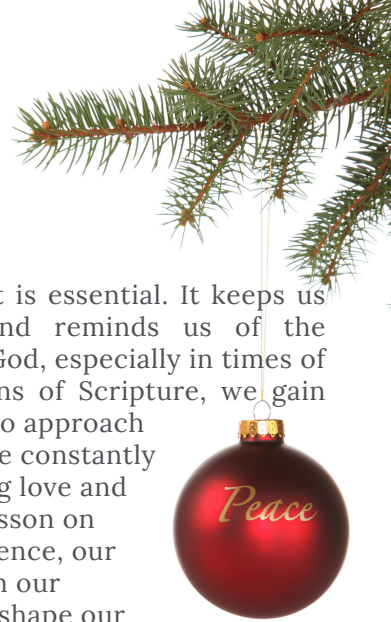


## HOSPITALITY GROUP

A welcoming band of parishioners and special parish groups serve morning tea on the first Sunday of the month after Mass and this offers a great opportunity to catch up with other parishioners.

The annual luncheon was very successful, the Ballina Bowling Club served a lovely meal and everyone enjoyed the day.

The Tuesday ladies coffee morning at Cherry St Bowling Club goes from strength to strength. We meet at 10 am, everyone is welcome. Come along and have a cuppa and a chat !





# PARISH MINISTRIES

## YOUTH GROUP

The SFX Youth Group has undergone a brand change to the "Upper Room Youth Group" remembering the place Jesus and His disciples gathered to break bread, raise their hearts in prayer and be ultimately transformed and united in Christ. Under the mantle of "@ballina.youth" the Upper Room Youth Group has also changed to Sunday evenings 6:00pm-8:00pm during the school term. After this change, we have seen an increase in attendance, and overwhelming positive feedback from both parents and students.

Over the past few months we have participated in games and movie nights, and were joined by a host of exchange students from Japan - who we celebrated an 'Aussie Night' with, where we celebrated all things Australian, from food and games to the classic nutbush.



Members of the youth group also surprised one of our youth ministers by dressing like him for 'Dress Like Brendon Night' - where we saw many costumes including, but not limited to 'Cricket Brendon', 'Bowls Brendon', and many more.

Members of our youth group also had the opportunity to attend the Diocesan Discipleship events, Shine, Festa Christi, and the upcoming GOAT retreat. Here they spent time connecting with other students from around our Diocese, experiencing reflective prayer activities, prayer teams, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, worship music, and chances for dynamic faith formation. Members of the Upper Room Youth Group also attended the annual Ignite Conference in Brisbane for four days in September. At Ignite they were able to meet students from other Parishes and schools, attend workshops, listen to keynote speakers, and participate in youth rallies led by Emmanuel Worship.

During the October school holidays members of our youth group and their families joined with the wider Parish community to participate in the Nation Wide Rosary Chain, hosted in Lennox Head.



We have returned for Term 4, on Sundays 6:00-8:00pm in the Parish Upper Room. The first youth group back was a fun night at the bowling alley where we were able to welcome new and returning members.

Thank you to the Parish, parents, and youth group members who helped us make Youth Group a reality, we appreciate and value your continued support.

For regular updates and more information we have a social media presence on Instagram and Facebook under the handle @ballina.youth, as well as a monthly magazine, which can be found on the Parish website under the name Neotēs.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The third article covering the activities of Vinnies in the Parish is about Mary's Place which was an initiative between our Parish and Vinnies. It was opened in 2020, is located at the corner of Moon Street and Treelands Crescent. It is a drop in centre providing support and guidance to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, disadvantage and social isolation. It works in a close relationship with Vinnies welfare group as both these arms are focused on assisting the disadvantaged within the community.

Between 250 and 300 people call at Mary's Place each week for assistance which could be breakfast, morning tea, a take away meal or just a cold drink. Besides feeding those who call into Mary's Place they are also provided showers, laundry, clothing, computing, phone charging and if necessary baggage storage. Next time you are passing, stop, call in and experience the hospitality provided by Bryan, the Manager, and his staffing volunteers who assist with food preparation and cooking.

Mary's Place has two other unique services, namely, Crisis Support and Case Management through the Social Workers employed. These have strong relationships with a number of local community services. They also provide counselling and referral services to patrons.

Mary's Place is overwhelmingly funded by the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW. It also relies on support of donations and through successful grant applications. It does not receive any government funding. Recently a group of lady parishioners formed a Friends of Mary's Place group to raise funds to help Mary's Place in its work.



# PRAYER MINISTRY



## PRAYER GROUPS

### TAIZE

Everyone is welcome to enjoy 45 minutes of praise, meditation and music uninterrupted. Every second Monday SFX Church Ballina at 12 noon

### MEN ALIVE

Bringing men together to share their faith journey and renew their faith in God. Groups running in Ballina (contact Richard Goss 0418 356 527) and Lennox (contact Murray Parr 0414 399 658)

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Come and experience meditation in the Christian tradition. We meet every Saturday at 9.30am in the Anawim Room Contact John Cheadle

### MARIAN CENACLE

Our Lady invites us into the centicle of her Immaculate Heart to pray for Priests, Bishops, Cardinals and the Pope. We would love you to join us every Monday at 11am in the Anawim Room. Contact the Parish Office

### BALLINA CCR

Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
Come and PRAISE God in song. Listen to His word in SCRIPTURE Speak to Him in PRAYER. Every Monday 2.15pm in the Anawim Room  
Contact Maxine Cole 0429 669 029

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND ROSARY

Every Saturday 9am SFX Church Ballina  
Every Sunday 7am Holy Family Lennox

### DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

Every Tuesday 10am Holy Family Church Lennox Head. For more information contact Hilda Carter 0458 662828

## TAIZÉ

On the prepared focus table in front of Our Lady's altar in St Francis Xavier's Church, the candle light reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The music gently begins. It is a welcome to those gathering to pray. Hearts and minds focussed on Jesus. Words of praise. Music. Prayer and praise. COMPLETE STILLNESS AND SILENCE for a short time - no prayers, no thoughts - just openness of heart and mind to the Holy Spirit. Then some gentle music leads us into prayers of supplication or a litany of praise of our Saviour. Together we raise our voices in the Lord's Prayer. The Final Blessing and music. No one moves now; it is hard to leave. Everything is still. The quiet sacred space is perfect for humble union with the Almighty. A slight movement signals it is time to go and with the blessings received in this short time in prayer, we are encouraged to take the Good News of the Word to others. In an ecumenical spirit the focus is always simplicity, kindness and reconciliation of heart. The spirit of Taizé lives on.



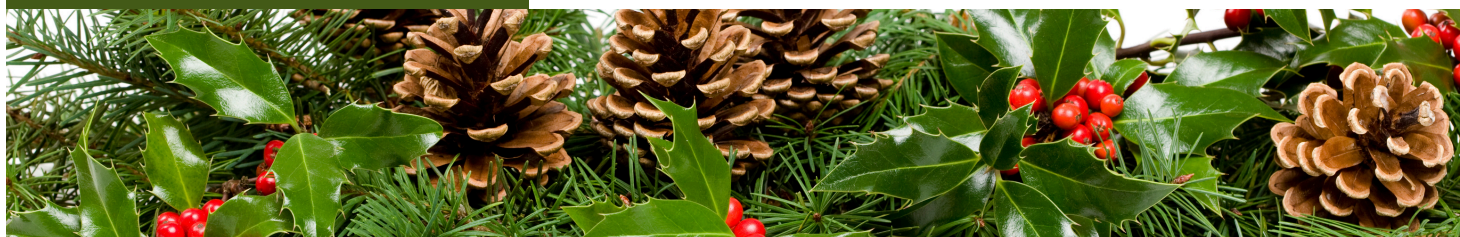
*Let us be the 'sign of Christ among men and bearers of joy'.*

## DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

In the Old testament the Holy Face of God is mentioned many times. The Psalmist writes "O Lord, show us Thy Face and we shall be saved". When the "Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us" (John 1.14) the Divine Face became the Face of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. In memory of His sacrificial suffering our Lord left us with miraculous imprints of His Holy Face, the Veil of Veronica and The Shroud of Turin.

In 1843 Jesus communicated with a Carmelite Nun, Sister Mary of St Peter and again one hundred years later with Blessed Mother Maria Pierina de Michelli. On both occasions he asked that His Holy Face be venerated and honoured. Our Lord said to Sister Mary of St Peter "According to the care you take in making reparation to My Face, disfigured by blasphemers, so will I take care of yours which has been disfigured by sin". In 1936 our Lord said "I wish that my Face which reflects the intimate sorrow of my Soul and the suffering and love of my Heart, be better honoured. He who contemplates me consoles me".

There is much to learn about this much needed Devotion, its origins, purpose and the promises Our Lord made to those who honour His Divine Countenance. Information is available at our prayer meetings. All are welcome to join in prayers of Reparation and the Holy Rosary at the Holy Family Church on Tuesdays at 10.00am. For more information contact Hilda on 0458662828.





# PARISH SCHOOLS

## XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Term 4 is well underway, and at Xavier Catholic College, we've had plenty of activities and events to keep us busy.

Following our Year 12 2024 Graduation Mass & Awards Ceremony late in Term 3, our Year 12 students have been diligently preparing for their HSC examinations, which have now concluded. Congratulations to our students, and thank you to all the parishioners who kept our students in their prayers over the examination block.

Our Year 11 students have begun their HSC journey, and with that came the appointment of our new student leaders for 2024-2025. Our student leaders recently participated in their Student Leadership Formation Camp. Blessed with beautiful weather, the group enjoyed a day at Ballina Surf Club, including a picturesque Ignatius and Bundjalung walk along Lighthouse Beach. Students participated in engaging activities like indoor rock climbing and a spirited house-based sandcastle competition. These activities set the stage for more focused sessions on leadership development, where students explored what it means to lead in an Ignatian and Catholic school. They also examined the leadership qualities of notable figures across politics, sports, and mission work, and reflected on their personal purpose as leaders – finding their "why" and understanding the essential role of student leaders in our community.

On Saturday evening, students and their families joined the parish community for the Vigil Mass, where the new leaders were formally commissioned in front of the entire Ballina Parish. Father Anselm's homily was especially inspiring, encouraging students to persevere through the challenges of leadership, especially when faced with frustration. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these new student leaders will bring to the College in the year ahead.

Earlier in the year, we wrote to parishioners about our Immersion Program, supporting our sister school in Timor-Leste. Our 2024 Immersion Team recently returned from their visit to Turiscai, where they had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the tradition, culture, and society of our sisters and brothers in Turiscai. We thank you all for your prayers throughout the Immersion Team's time in Timor-Leste. It was a rewarding experience for staff and students alike, and we were honoured to continue building connections with our Timorese family.

We will soon be welcoming our Year 7 2025 students to the College for their Orientation Day, where they'll get their first taste of life in high school. Many of our new students join us from our two Parish primary schools, St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballina and Holy Family Primary School, Skennars Head.

A reminder that we are planning our 25th Anniversary celebrations to be held in 2025. We value any parishioner feedback and support for these celebrations. If you have suggestions for how we could celebrate this important milestone, please submit a response here: <https://bit.ly/xcc25years-family>.

Parents and families are welcome to join us throughout the year for a variety of activities and information sessions so we can continue to support each student on their educational journey. If you would like to see what's on each Term, please visit: <https://xavierlism.catholic.edu.au/term-planners>. You can also visit our social media pages to see what we've been doing at the College – just search Xavier Catholic College Ballina on Facebook and @xccballina on Instagram to connect with us.

Families who are interested in joining XCC and want to learn more are warmly invited to join us at our upcoming Principal's Tour in Term 4. Spaces on our tours are limited! Please book via our website: <https://xavierlism.catholic.edu.au/enrolment-at-xcc>

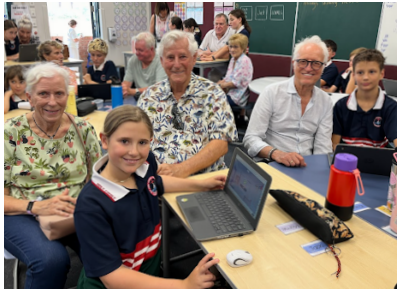


# PARISH SCHOOLS

## HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Grandparent's Celebration Afternoon



This term Holy Family celebrated Grandparent's Day by acknowledging the special role our grandparents play in our lives. Nearly 300 Grandparents joined us for a special afternoon celebration event including a treasure hunt with grandparents and children, fun classroom activities and a special prayer assembly. Thank you to all the grandparents for your love and wisdom—we cherish you! A special thank you also to Bake My Life Bakery who supplied a delicious afternoon tea for the event.



Scan this QR for a short video from our Grandparent's Celebration Afternoon.

### Catholic Mission's Mini Fete

Parishioners are warmly invited to join our Holy Family Mini Fete on Tuesday 3rd December. Our Mini Fete is a special event in our school calendar for children, family and friends, and parishioners to join in our fun celebration with the important focus of raising money in support of Catholic Missions and our Sister School, St John Bosco in the Solomon Islands.

Our Mini Fete will follow a short liturgy in the hall which begins at 12 noon. The Mini Fete will run from 12.30 to 2.30pm.

Children or families are encouraged to bring smaller money denominations as all activities, stalls etc ranging from 50c to \$2.

### Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, our school gathered to celebrate a special liturgy led by students and staff to acknowledge those who have died or who suffered while serving in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

Our School Captains of Holy Family Catholic Primary School, St Francis Xavier Primary School and Xavier Catholic College attended a Remembrance ceremony at Crowley Care. As part of the commemorative service, the Captains led readings, offering thoughtful reflections and prayers that highlighted the courage, resilience, and enduring legacy of our fallen soldiers.

The ceremony and subsequent time spent with the residents underscored Xavier Catholic College, St Francis Xavier Primary School and Holy Family School's commitment to fostering respect, empathy, and community spirit among its students. It was an experience that not only honoured those who served but also inspired a new generation to carry forward the values of remembrance and gratitude.





# PARISH SCHOOLS

## ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Mission News

#### Community Connections with St Andrew's Aged Care

Our Year 4 students have been fortunate to visit St Andrew's Aged Care here in Ballina. Across two visits, the students have shared stories and played games with the residents. These visits coincide with the students' studies in Religious Education, where they are learning about Mary, the Mother of God. Part of the unit of work asks students to identify needs in our world which require a response.

#### Whole School Retreat

On Monday 22 October we shared in a whole school Retreat about Creation, led by our Year 6 students. As part of their learning in Religious Education last term, the Year 6 students encouraged us to be stewards of God's Creation and asked us how we can better care for God's creation. The students designed engaging learning opportunities for all classes throughout the school. It was incredible to see their ingenuity and differentiation across the Year levels. The creativity and use of technology ensured our students were highly engaged in their learning. It was a wonderful day of learning and fun and again we thank our Year 6 students and teachers for a great day.



### Learning and Teaching News

#### Japanese

In Japanese the students have been learning to write a simple description of their pet. They needed to describe its colour, size, and age. The students could then read it in Japanese and translate it back into English.

#### Kindergarten Mathematics

In Kindergarten Mathematics the students were focussing on estimating how many objects they had in the handful they had grabbed. They then arranged them so it was easy to see how many there were without counting them. The students then went on a gallery walk and identified groups of objects that were easy to know how many there were altogether. They needed to be able to justify why. This time they ascertained it was easier to count arrangements that were arranged in 2's, 5's and 10's. Everyone then had the opportunity to rearrange their quantities and share why with their learning partner.

#### Year Four Mathematics

In Year 4 the students have been learning about symmetry, tessellation, rotations, reflections, and translations in Mathematics. They explored the work of artist M.C. Escher whose work is famous for its intricate tessellations and impossible constructions. His prints, such as "Reptiles" or "Sky and Water," show how repeating patterns and transformations can create fascinating visual effects.



# PARISH SCHOOLS

## ST ANNES LONG DAY CARE CENTRE



Special celebrations are an important part of our work with even our youngest children. Learning about how we are connected to the larger community and the bigger world occurs through these special celebrations. Each year we celebrate and acknowledge The Feast of St Anne's Day (July 26) by gathering together, saying a prayer to St Anne, singing, dancing, and feasting (usually on patty cakes!). Our unique timber statues, of St Anne and her daughter Mary, crafted by Adam Sullivan-Holy Family School Assistant Principal, stand proudly at the entrance of St Anne's reminding all of us of the significance of a mother and child relationship.

In September the children participated in an interactive Drumming Workshop making loud beats and rhythms to "raise the roof". The Tissue Fairy also visited to help us teach the children of the importance of blowing noses correctly to ensure healthy ears. Conductive hearing loss (Otitis Media) has a debilitating impact on children's hearing and has a direct link to delays in speech and language development. Part of our daily work is to support young children's communication, speech and language.

The Native Bee Company Education Officer visited our Preschool children to help them learn more about the important work of native bees and pollination. We have 3 native bee hives at St Anne's and gardens cared for by Educators and children. Connecting the children with nature, our country, our land and introducing them to sustainable practices is also an important part of our education programmes at St Anne's.

In October we acknowledged and celebrated National Children's Week with all of St Anne's children and Educators participating together in a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' on our outside 'Green Space'. Children's Week is celebrated each year with a theme based on an Article from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Every two years a new theme is chosen. The theme for this year was based on Article 24 focusing on the right of children to a clean and safe environment. As well, we celebrated NSW Grandparents' Day by inviting all Grandparents and "Grand-friends" to visit their grandchildren during a morning or afternoon session in the last week of October. What a great week with 111 "visitors" joining us over that week, as well as some (who are currently overseas) sending videos with greetings!

Our year of growing, developing and learning, for this year, is fast coming to an end. As children get ready to transition into their next age group room at the start of 2025, we also prepare for our 5 year old Preschoolers (in the Seabirds Room), to spread their wings and fly high off to Kindergarten for their first year of formal education at school. We have children transitioning to St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballina, Holy Family Primary School Skennars Head and St Finbarr's Primary School Byron Bay.

We are privileged each year to share in such young children's Early Childhood Education and Care.



### SFX Parish Ballina Contact details:



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PO Box 46 Ballina 2478



53 - 57 Cherry Street Ballina  
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.00pm



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



Holy Family Catholic Church  
Ballina Street, Lennox Head

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Fr Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Fr Anselm Okeke

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney ([john@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:john@sfxballina.org.au))

Youth Co-ordinator: Kailani Tiernan ([ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au](mailto:ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au))

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Holy Family Primary: 40 Isabella Drive Skennars Head 66875311

Xavier Catholic College: 2 Redford Dr, Skennars Head 6687 6484

St Anne's Long Day Care: 42 Isabella Dr Skennars Head 6687 5961

Crowley Care Services: 154 Cherry St Ballina 1300 139 099