



CONNECT

All Are Welcome All Belong

PARISH EVENTS

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, July 28th from 5.30pm to 7.00pm.**

AFTERNOON WITH BISHOP GREG

Mark 2pm Saturday August 2nd in your diary as Bishop Greg joins us for what promises to be an engaging and insightful afternoon.

YEAR OF JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ST CARTHAGE'S CATHEDRAL

Join us on pilgrimage in this Jubilee Year of Hope as we walk through the Holy Door of St Carthage's Cathedral and receive a Plenary Indulgence. More details to come.

ALPHA 2025

"Come and See" taster session to be held on Thursday 18th September at 5pm. Followed by a Thursday dinner series commencing in October.

Keep an eye out in the parish bulletin for further details on these events.

SFX Parish Ballina Contact details:

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☎ 02 6681 1048

🌐 www.sfxballina.org.au

📮 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: Fr Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Fr Erick Quinteros

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Team: Pauline Fingleton

Youth Co-ordinator: Kailani Tiernan

From the Parish Priests



A Season of Change and Gratitude

This year brings a few important changes for our parish community. We warmly welcome our new Holy Father, Pope Leo, and join in prayer for his guidance and ministry.

We also extend a heartfelt welcome to Fr. Erick, who joins us as a new member of our parish family. May his time with us be blessed and fruitful.

At the same time, we bid a fond farewell to Fr. Anselm. We are deeply grateful for the many and varied ways he has served our parish. His presence, dedication, and care will be greatly missed.

A note from Fr Erick

I was born in El Salvador in 1969. In March 1987 my family and I were so pleased to arrive in Australia as refugees. Unfortunately my father was in danger of death at his work place, receiving death threats on a regular basis.

In 1989 under the guidance of Father Geoffrey Jarrett I entered a seminary in Melbourne and I was ordained to the priesthood on Anzac Day 1998 in Wagga Wagga. In the Diocese of Wagga Wagga I served in different parishes within Wagga, as well as Albury, Leeton and Griffith.

In 1991 I discovered that I was suffering from renal failure due to a condition from birth. In September 2010 I arrived at Coffs Harbour to work in the Diocese. I had requested Bishop Jarrett to move to the Diocese of Lismore as my whole family lives in Brisbane. On the night I arrived at Coffs Harbour Father Peter Padsungay welcomed me with a big smile. In 2011 I suffered complete renal failure and had to move to Lismore for medical care. I received dialysis for six years at St Vincent's until a kidney transplant on 12th January 2017.

For the past 12 years I have worked in the Parish of Kyogle, after serving two years at the Cathedral Parish. When Bishop Homeming requested that I move to Ballina to assist Father Peter, I was completely shocked and greatly surprised. However, as I had celebrated a number of Healing Masses in Ballina before, I knew it was a wonderful place, but really busy in comparison to Kyogle. I am now enjoying this new 'adventure' and looking forward to getting to know everyone in the Parish.

From the Parish Pastoral Council

It is with a spirit of solemn reflection and faithful hope that we share significant developments both in the universal Church and within our own parish community. *Murray Deeps, Chair PPC*

1. The Death and Burial of His Holiness Pope Francis

With deep sorrow, we mark the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, who died after a life devoted to the service of Christ and His Church. His Holiness was honoured in a solemn and prayerful funeral at St. Peter's Basilica, attended by faithful from around the world. In his last will and testament, published shortly after his death, Francis requested that he be laid to rest outside the Vatican, in the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major (Santa Maria Maggiore, in Italian). He often visited that ancient church in Rome to pray before and after his travels.

Pope Francis will be remembered for his humility, his tireless advocacy for the poor and the marginalized, and his unwavering emphasis on mercy and compassion. His papacy brought a renewed vision of a Church that walks closely with the people, especially those on the peripheries of society. We ask all parishioners to continue praying for the repose of his soul and to give thanks to God for his faithful and transformative leadership.

2. Election of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

Following the passing of Pope Francis, the College of Cardinals has elected His Holiness Pope Leo XIV as the new Bishop of Rome and leader of the universal Church. We give thanks for his election and pray that he may be guided by the Holy Spirit in his ministry to the People of God.

In his address to the College of Cardinals on May 10, Pope Leo XIV explained that he had "different reasons" for choosing the name but he was mainly inspired by the most recent of his namesakes – Pope Leo XIII, who spent much of his papacy advocating for the rights of workers during the first industrial revolution. May Pope Leo XIV be a shepherd of wisdom, courage, and peace in our time.

3. Departure of Fr Anselm

Locally, we announce that Fr Anselm, who has served our parish with great dedication as Assistant Priest, has been appointed Parish Priest of Wauchope. We are grateful for his faithful service, pastoral care, and the many ways in which he has enriched our parish life. On Sunday, 29th June at the 9.00 am Mass, a farewell, celebration and morning tea will be happening to honour Fr Anselm and send him forth with our love and prayers.

4. Appointment of Rev Fr Erick Quinteros

We are pleased to welcome Rev Fr Erick Quinteros as our new Assistant Priest. Fr Erick comes to us with valuable pastoral experience and a deep commitment to the mission of the Church. We look forward to his ministry among us and encourage all parishioners to offer him a warm and supportive welcome.

"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone But on tablets of human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:2-4

5. Two-Year Parish Strategic Plan

We are pleased to share that the Parish Pastoral Council has been meeting bi-monthly to develop a comprehensive Two-Year Strategic Plan for our parish. This initiative builds upon our ongoing vision work and aims to provide clear priorities and a shared direction for our community as we move forward together in faith. Rooted in the Gospel and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Strategic Plan will focus on key areas such as spiritual growth, liturgical life, outreach and service, youth engagement, and stewardship.



Parish Pastoral Council Members

Parish Pastoral Council Continued

The Council is working diligently to ensure that the plan reflects the needs, hopes, and gifts of our whole parish community.

We thank the members of the Parish Pastoral Council for their commitment to this important work. The finalised Strategic Plan will be shared with all parishioners in the coming months, along with opportunities for involvement and implementation. As we embrace this new chapter in the life of our parish, may we remain united in prayer, service, and in our shared mission of living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on these changes, may we remain united in prayer and in our shared mission of living out the Gospel in our parish and beyond.

From the Parish Finance Council

Brian Marriott, Chair PFC

The external painting of the Lennox Head Church has been completed.

The sandstone face brick on the bell tower of the Ballina Church requires more attention than initially believed. Originally it was thought the brickwork required repointing but once the scaffolding was erected and closer inspection was possible it was determined that the brick ties to the double brick wall behind the face brick had corroded away. The bricks are being systematically removed and new ties installed. A similar process will be required on the other tower. The work must be carried out as there is a very real possibility of bricks falling if left untreated.

The construction of twenty six (26) Crowley independent living apartments at the end of Florence Price Place is progressing with completion expected in September 2025.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

As winter sets in across Australia, thousands of people face the bitter cold without the comfort and security of a home. Homelessness continues to be a pressing issue, affecting individuals and families from all walks of life. Among the leading contributors to homelessness is domestic and family violence, which forces many, particularly women and children, to flee their homes in search of safety, often with nowhere else to turn. In the face of such adversity, finding shelter, warmth, and basic necessities becomes a daily struggle.



This is where the St Vincent de Paul Society, through its annual Winter Appeal, steps in to offer vital support. Commonly known as Vinnies, the organisation provides practical assistance to those in need, helping with food, warm clothing, and essential household bills. Sometimes, a small act, such as covering rent for a week, can mean the difference between a family remaining housed or ending up on the street. Vinnies recognises that addressing immediate needs is just the first step in helping people regain stability and dignity.

However, homelessness is often a symptom of a deeper, more complex issue: the cycle of poverty. Without intervention, families caught in this cycle can face generation after generation of disadvantage, making it nearly impossible to break free. Vinnies doesn't just respond to urgent crises, it also connects individuals with long-term programs and resources, offering a path toward independence and self-sufficiency. These programs empower people to build better futures and prevent homelessness before it begins.

The success of these efforts depends heavily on the generosity of the public. The Winter Appeal is not just about charity, it's about community. By donating to Vinnies, supporters are helping to restore hope, provide stability, and create real opportunities for those doing it tough. With widespread support, the St Vincent de Paul Society can continue its critical work and move closer to ending the cycles of homelessness and poverty.

We here at the Ballina conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be launching the Vinnies Winter Appeal on the first Sunday of July. As followers of Christ, we are called to love and serve those in need and this is a tangible way to live out that call. Through the kind donation from our community, Vinnies can help restore the dignity and hope of the less fortunate who live among us.

From the Holy Family Lennox Head Committee

Sue Hetherington, Chair HFLHC



Cocooned from rain in Saint Francis Xavier Church, members drawn from Ballina's 15 faith communities listened in profound silence. A strong, single voice, with an Iranian accent, spoke of how it feels to be told to no longer speak your language; to be punished, humiliated and shamed when not speaking English. The words read were written by Vainiu, a Cook Islander woman, who coped because she knew "God is still with me". This was one pivotal moment in April, when our parish hosted the 198th World Day of Prayer, with the theme God Made You Wonderful. Another tangible moment was a strong and reverent Māori choir, accompanied by a single guitar, singing the Our Father.

The prayer service showcased both readers from different faiths, and a generosity of spirit from other faith groups to help with providing hospitality, Cook Island artifacts and a photographer. Thank you Father Anselm and each parishioner from both Catholic churches who contributed to making a joyous celebration. A total of \$323.35 was raised to address gender violence against women and girls with bible-based Trauma Healing programs and providing Sunday school teacher training. Nigeria will be the focus for World Day of Prayer 2026.

Easter Sunday, occurring in April, is the greatest celebration in the church's liturgical year. But for many, celebrating in a church, with a congregation, is neither lived experience nor yet able to be experienced. The Lennox Beach Easter Prayer Service celebration is for all, as both Catholic and Anglican clergy present a prayer service together, as an Easter gift to the wider community, especially children.

It is an opportunity to see a strong, beautiful Cross, rising above the waves, to privately confess, to hear and sing hymns and to hear and say prayers. From those taking photos of the Cross before the service started, to those who left the cafes and children's playground and added to the crowd, it was an exuberant celebration. Many later went on to their sacramental celebrations. One onlooker followed Holy Family parishioners to the church and stood in the church foyer until the final blessing. This is a simple reflection of Pope Leo's words from the Vatican balcony: that we must seek together to be a church always ready to receive.



April was also the month Pope Francis's call to embrace God's mercy materialised, at Holy Family church, in the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, held one week after Easter. As the Divine Mercy chaplet was sung by all, Father Anselm offered Reconciliation and later Benediction. There was a noticeable increase of those attending this beautiful devotion. Thank you Marie for championing and organising the devotion and everyone who contributed to the day's success.

You may have noticed that often meals are mentioned in the Bible. Meals are mentioned 1200 times, and the benefits of sharing a meal together are many. This leads the Holy Family Lennox Head Committee, in July, to resume providing a space for parishioners from both churches and their family, including their children, and friends to come together and share a drink if time is short, or a meal. On the last Friday of every month, tables are permanently booked inside Club Lennox to welcome you. We invite you to join us, especially newcomers, and those who would like some company for a delicious dinner in a relaxed atmosphere. Transport can be arranged, if required.

Holy Family Church will host one of two new initiatives in July or early August titled Beachside Meditation. Against the backdrop of pounding waves, there will be an opportunity to sit in stillness and candlelight with Jesus, in Holy Family's 138-year-old, country church.

For 45 minutes we embrace a Taizé experience of prayer through music, meditation and silence. Founded in 1940, as a response to WWII, a young Swiss brother designed Taizé as a sign of Christ among us and for us to be bearers of joy. The spirit of Taizé prayer is to foster the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation of heart. Flyers and the date will be in the Sunday Bulletin.

We thank Father Anselm for his consistent enthusiasm and adventurous spirit in embracing both traditional and new Holy Family initiatives. His presence will be keenly missed by all of us.

PARISH MINISTRIES

From the Faith Formation Group

with Maxine Cole, Leader FFG



Nurturing Hope: A Year of Faith and Formation in Our Parish

As we journey through the Jubilee Year of Hope, our Faith Formation Team has been busy, creating meaningful opportunities to nourish the spiritual life of our parish community. From prayerful reflections to vibrant worship, the year has already been rich in grace—and there's more to come.

Reflecting, Healing, and Growing Together

Our Lenten Reflection Morning brought parishioners together to prayerfully consider Pope Francis' Easter message within the context of this special Jubilee. The morning included powerful moments of reconciliation, adoration, scripture rosary, and benediction, allowing all who attended to reconnect deeply with God's mercy and hope.

On the eve of Pentecost, the parish was blessed with a Healing Mass, starting with praise and worship music, beautifully led by Leanne Broadley. The Holy Spirit was truly present in this afternoon of prayer, song, and healing grace.

Small groups also gathered for "Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John", a five-session video journey guided by Dr. Edward Sri. The series, known for its stunning cinematography and rich teaching, led participants to a more personal encounter with Christ.

Throughout Lent, our Faith Formation Team facilitated small groups using the Brisbane Archdiocese's Lenten Program, helping participants to connect, share, and grow in faith during the sacred season.

Youth Pilgrimage: Walking in Faith

Some team members had the privilege of supporting and joining the Pentecost Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage. Organised by our Parish Youth, the journey began at Holy Family Church in Lennox Head, continued along the coastal track, and concluded with a special pilgrimage blessing at St Francis Xavier Church in Ballina after a 4.5-hour walk. A true testament to youthful faith and community spirit!

Looking Ahead: Join Us on the Journey

There's still much to look forward to in the second half of the Jubilee Year of Hope:

- Spend an afternoon with **Bishop Greg** and fellow parishioners from 2pm on Saturday August 2nd.
- **Pilgrimage to St Carthage's Cathedral**, Lismore – Walk through the Holy Door and receive the Plenary Indulgence available during the Jubilee Year. Details will be in the bulletin—don't miss this rare spiritual opportunity!
- Monthly **Charismatic Healing Masses** – Starting Sunday, July 6 at 3pm, join Fr Erick for an afternoon of healing, praise, and worship. Come with open hearts for spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional renewal as we call on the extraordinary power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- **Alpha** Returns in October – Explore life, faith, and meaning in a welcoming space. Curious? You're invited to a "Come and See" Alpha taster session at 5pm September 18th—bring a friend and experience it for yourself. Enjoy good food and good company, meet other parishioners, listen to other people's ideas and experiences of life and faith and the opportunity to share your own ideas and experiences.
- **Family Faith Ideas** – creative ideas to live out the Jubilee at home, including creating a gratitude tree, hosting a jubilee feast, and ways to serve others as a family.
- **Advent Reflection Morning** – Embrace the season of joyful waiting with a morning of prayer and reflection focused on the theme of Hope.

Share Your Ideas!

The Faith Formation Team is here to serve you. If you have suggestions for programs, topics, or themes you'd love to see explored, don't hesitate to reach out to one of our team members: Maxine Coles, Leanne Robbins, Richard Goss, Leanne Broadley, Pauline Fingelton and Kailani Tiernan.

Together, let's continue to walk in hope, grow in faith, and build a vibrant spiritual community in this Jubilee Year.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Jesus said "for where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"

Matthew 18:20

Jesus does not say that he will be found in solitude. Rather, Jesus will be found in the midst of believers who gather together-in the midst of those who seek out each other to build communities of faith.

Disciples must count on each other to experience the presence of the risen Jesus.



Crowley are excited to introduce four new Personal Care Workers joining the residential care facility nursing team this June, each from Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Esther, Martina, Quinton and Collin travelled to Australia mid-2024 to work as Personal Care Workers under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme.

This scheme enables Australian organisations to recruit workers from nine Pacific Island nations to work for up to four years, particularly in regional areas where local workers can be in short supply.

It also provides PALM workers with an Australian qualification, experience and skillset that can be taken back to their home country at the conclusion of their time in Australia and shared within their community. The income these workers make while here also enables them to provide increased support to their families back home.

Each of our new workers has completed the Australian qualification - Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) - but this isn't their first experience working in the care field.

Three of them have nursing qualifications and prior experience in PNG and all have recent Australian work experience, having just completed an assignment in the APY lands of South Australia where they served remote communities as Home Care Workers providing personal and domestic support to the elderly.

PNG is the most populous Pacific Island nation, and also one of the most linguistically diverse nations in the world with over 800 languages spoken, including English. PNG is largely Christian, and they practice this alongside their Indigenous belief system with meetings and gatherings usually starting with a prayer.

We welcome Esther, Collin, Martina and Quinton to Ballina and our Parish.

From the Hospitality Group *with Denise Miller*

The Hospitality Group continues to enjoy serving morning tea every first Sunday of the month for parishioners to enjoy a cuppa and a chat after Mass. Everyone welcome and thanks to our Parish ladies who prepare a plate for this.

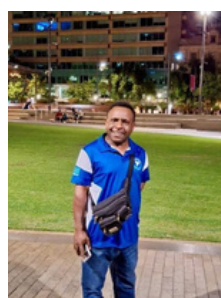
Special Healing Mass, reflection day also World day of Prayer have been well attended and morning tea served.

Other Special Masses celebrated was Pentecost Sunday with morning tea served, with everyone invited to bring a plate from their country.



Fr Anselm will be farewelled with Mass and a special morning tea on 29th June.

The ladies morning tea held every Tuesday morning at 10 am at the Cherry St Bowlo is very well attended. Everyone welcome to come along and bring a friend!



Colin



Esther



Martina



Quintan

PARISH MINISTRIES

SFX Youth Group

Kailani Tiernan

Parish Youth Coordinator

Youth Group

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. Members of our youth group have recently participated in the LEAD Conference in March, and are looking forward to attending future Diocesan and National Discipleship events such as Shine, Ignite Conference, and the Australia Catholic Youth Festival in November.

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 @ballin.youth, as well as a quarterly magazine, which can be found on the Parish website under the name Neotēs.

Pentecost Pilgrimage

On Sunday 8th June, Pentecost Sunday, young people from around the Diocese joined together as Pilgrims of Hope to participate in a Pilgrimage Walk. Members of our Parish Youth and Young Adults groups were joined by Parishioners from the Ballina, Alstonville, Lismore, and Casino Parishes to journey from Holy Family Church Lennox Head to St. Francis Xavier Church Ballina. The 13 participants started their journey at 12:30pm and travelled the 15 kilometres to arrive at the St. Francis Xavier Church by 5:00pm, where they were warmly greeted by Fr Peter, and received a Blessing. The Pilgrims spent time reflecting, praying and conversing throughout the afternoon, focussing on the importance of Pentecost, the hope of the Risen Christ, and celebrating the "birthday" of our Church. This year is a Jubilee Year where we have been called to be Pilgrims of Hope, fanning "the flame of hope that has been given to us". Thank you to all our Pilgrims for their support and participation of this Pentecost Pilgrimage. Thank you also to Fr Peter, the St. Francis Xavier Parish, and the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team for their support, time, and dedication to the preparation, administration, and facilitation of this Pentecost Pilgrimage.



Men's Morning Coffee & Scripture
at Rise A Time to Reflect, Connect
& Be Led by the Spirit 🌿

Every second Wednesday, we gather as brothers in faith at Rise Coffee Shop in Lennox Head at 8:00 am for a relaxed and supportive hour that nourishes both heart and soul.

We start with a coffee in hand and a genuine check-in: "How are you really doing?"

It's a space where listening matters, your voice is heard, and no one walks alone.

We then open the daily scripture reading, letting God's Word guide us. The reflections shared are always thoughtful, encouraging, and often profoundly moving. It's amazing how the Holy Spirit works through these conversations, lifting us and drawing us closer together—and to Him.

We usually wrap up after an hour (sometimes a little longer—when the Spirit leads, we follow). You're welcome here whether you're feeling strong in your faith or searching for connection.

Join us. Be part of something meaningful. Feel free to reach out if you have questions or want to chat. Murray Parr | 0414 399 658

Let's grow together—one coffee, conversation, and scripture at a time.

If fortnightly Thursdays suit you better, menALIVE also meets at Anawim House in Ballina. Richard Goss | 0418 356 527



Pilgrims of Hope



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

Holy Family Primary



Holy Family Discipleship Retreat: Ten:Ten

On Tuesday, 13th May, all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 at Holy Family took part in the Ten:Ten Discipleship Retreat — a joyful day of faith, reflection, and community.

Led by the Wildfire music team, regional school youth ministers, and Xavier's Year 10 ministry class, the retreat was inspired by John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." This scripture also reflects Holy Family's school motto, "Life to the Full in Christ."

The day was filled with uplifting music, fun games, meaningful prayer, and moments of personal reflection.

Students were encouraged to grow in faith, connect with others, and celebrate the fullness of life found in Christ.

Year 6 Glow



On Thursday 29th of May our Holy Family Year 6 class attended the GLOW retreat at Xavier College. GLOW is an initiative that aims to bring together all Year 6 students within each region for an immersive prayer experience, engaging small groups and fun activities. This retreat was a one-day experience allowing those attending to build relationships with Year 6 students from other local Catholic schools.



ANZAC Day March



Students from Holy Family proudly participated in Ballina's ANZAC Day parade, joining the wider community in honoring Australia's servicemen and women. Our local school's presence added youthful spirit and solemn respect to the march along River Street, which culminated in a commemorative service at Memorial Park. Holy Family's involvement reflected its commitment to instilling values of remembrance and gratitude in its students, reinforcing the importance of ANZAC Day in the hearts of our students.

Congratulations to all the children in our Parish who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday, June 21st.



CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

First Sunday of each month commencing 3pm Sunday 6th July
Celebrant: Father Erick Quinteros at St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina.

At a Charismatic Healing Mass, we pray for the extraordinary power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of healing us spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

There will be opportunity for individual prayer after Mass.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

St Francis Xavier Primary



Mission News

Family, Faith and Fun Night

In Term One, we hosted a Family Faith and Fun Night for our K - 2 families. The evening included games, food, faith and fun. It was wonderful to see so many of our Kindergarten to Year 2 families attend our Family Faith and Fun Night. The evening began with lots of conversation and pizza for dinner, followed by 3 activities:

Family - these activities were all about families and connecting with other families in our school community.

Faith - this activity was a storytelling of the Lost Sheep. After listening to the story, families made their own sheep.

Fun - these activities were all about having fun and playing together as a school community. We thank the Parent Assembly for their support of this wonderful community building event.

The BIG Water Walk

In support of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, as a whole school, we participated in the BIG Water Walk. Each day 292 Million people spend over 30 minutes walking to find clean, safe water to drink.

Together with our Year 6 students, we walked around the town of Ballina to raise money and awareness of those communities in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific who have to walk daily to supply fresh, clean water for their families. As a school, we raised \$597 to support those in our neighbouring Asian countries to secure clean, fresh and locally sourced water.

Learning and Teaching News

Staff Professional Learning Day - A Focus on the Creative Arts

On Friday, 30th May, our teaching staff engaged in a valuable Professional Learning Day centred around the upcoming Creative Arts (CAPA) syllabus, which will be implemented in all NSW schools from 2026.



This dedicated day provided an opportunity for our educators to unpack the structure and content of the new syllabus, which emphasises authentic and engaging learning experiences across the four key art forms: visual arts, music, dance, and drama. Through collaborative workshops, teachers explored innovative teaching strategies designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and artistic expression in students.

The day highlighted our school's ongoing commitment to professional growth and curriculum excellence. We are excited to bring this renewed creative focus into our classrooms, enriching the learning experiences of all students. We thank our school community for their continued support as we prepare for the successful rollout of this exciting new curriculum.

Year 6 English Immersion: Exploring Imagery, Symbolism and Genre through Literature

In Year 6 English this term, students have been deeply engaged in analysing imagery, symbolism, connotation, and genre through the powerful mentor text *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief* by Katrina Nannestad. This evocative novel has provided rich opportunities for students to explore how literature can cross genres and express profound meaning through both words and illustrations.

Students discovered that texts don't always fit neatly into one genre, and that symbols can powerfully convey emotion, theme, and perspective — especially in stories about war and childhood. Through close reading and discussion, they examined the realities of war from a child's perspective, reflecting on what children their own age may have experienced in times of conflict.

To bring this exploration to life, Mrs Niland left the classroom and transformed the Hall into a dark, sombre art gallery, featuring thought-provoking images and videos. The immersive experience was enhanced with reflective prompts that encouraged students to think deeply, respond personally, and make connections between literature, history, and empathy.

The level of engagement, insight, and emotional maturity shown in the students' responses was nothing short of outstanding. This experience not only strengthened their understanding of literary techniques but also nurtured compassion and critical thinking, key traits for young readers and global citizens.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

Xavier Catholic College

A Jesuit Companion School



This year at Xavier Catholic College has been filled with activities, both in and out of the classroom. It is wonderful to see students taking up the many opportunities available to them, whether in the classroom, on the sporting field, in cultural pursuits or leadership roles. We encourage all students to step forward and pursue the areas they are passionate about – and to continue growing in responsibility as young adults.

As part of this growth, we have invited students to participate in the RCIY Program under the guidance of our College Youth Minister, Brendon Clarke. Seven students are in the program, preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. We are excited to see our students' commitment to deepening their faith is a testament to the spiritual life of the College.

We have begun preparations for Year 7 2026, recently inviting many students from across our Parish to join the College next year. It was wonderful to meet all the Year 6 students and their families at our Xavier Opens The Doors afternoon, as well as at our enrolment interviews. These students will certainly do our College proud as members in 2026.

Recently, we unveiled and officially blessed our new Yarning Circle and Indigenous Mural. Our Indigenous students and families, along with students from other Diocesan primary and secondary schools, joined together to celebrate this important community milestone. Our thanks to special guests Aunty Sandra, Uncle Kristopher, Uncle Bruce, and the Bundjalung Wudjabil Dance Troupe for contributing to our event. It was very meaningful to our College community and we look forward to sharing more events like this in the future.

At Xavier Catholic College, our mission is shaped by the 'Four Cs' of Jesuit education – Conscience, Compassion, Competence, and Commitment. This term, we turn our focus to Compassion, a value that calls us to walk with others in empathy and love, especially those who are vulnerable or on the margins. Compassion is not simply a feeling, but a call to action; to listen with care, to show patience and kindness, and to lead through service and solidarity. But how does compassion really work? Research shared in 'Self-Compassion: The Proven Power of Being Kind to Yourself' by Dr. Kristin Neff shows that while 78% of us find it easy to show compassion to others, only 16% feel comfortable receiving compassion, and just 6% find it easy to show compassion to ourselves. True compassion, then, begins within. When we learn to treat ourselves with kindness, we are better able to extend that same grace to those around us. As we explore Compassion this term, let us each begin by being gentle with ourselves and from there, allow that compassion to ripple outward in our classrooms, our homes, and our wider community.

At Xavier Catholic College, we remain committed to building a strong and supportive culture – one that ensures our students are well cared for, engaged in their learning, and happy in their school life. Their wellbeing and growth remain at the heart of all we do.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT St Annes Long Day Care Centre



The first half of this year has flown as we welcomed new children to St Anne's and supported others moving into their new age group room, building and affirming relationships with all of the young children in our care, and their families, to ensure they all feel secure with a sense of belonging here at St Anne's. Our work, which focuses on 'play-based learning', assists children to develop and build relationships and friendships themselves, allows for the expression of their own personality and uniqueness, and enables children to make connections between their prior experiences (with family and home) and new learning facilitated by their Early Childhood Educators. This early learning influences their continuing educational journeys at school. We continue to feel privileged to be part of that.

An important part of our work with young children pays attention to 'environmental sustainability' – caring for our natural world, and protecting, preserving and improving the environment. Plantings and gardens are established and maintained by all children (even our youngest) in their outside learning areas, while the Preschool children's knowledge of caring for the environment was extended with incursions during March this year with visitors, Arlian Ecker (Plastic Free Boy, a young environmentalist sharing his Educational program related to taking care of the environment (Full of Solutions to protect the Coral Reef and Buzzy Buddies and Soil Superheroes), and a North East Waste Educator who took the children through an educational journey of what is waste, what to do with waste, how to avoid waste and then a workshop to make a wax sandwich paper wrap.

Another area of importance in our work at St Anne's is helping children to build resilience, raise self-awareness, and learn different strategies to help children to self-regulate. Our work in this area has been supported by a set of 4 inspiring books authored by a parent of children who attended St Anne's, about Kilko the Koala who adopts strategies to help him with his 'big emotions'. The author, Rikki-Lee Calnan made a visit to St Anne's to read one of her books to the children. These books are now referenced regularly by both Educators and children, as a very effective resource for helping know 'what to do' when your feelings and emotions are big!

Not all learning happens at St Anne's. A recent excursion with the Preschool children to Ballina extended their knowledge of Ballina's beautiful, peaceful St Francis Xavier Church, the creative space at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery, and an opportunity to use their developing Italian language (supported by the Government's Early Learning Languages Australia program) as they asked for "Gelato per favore!" at the local Baskin-Robbins ice creamery....Galato alla fragola or Gelato alla vaniglia.

Reconciliation Week was acknowledged and celebrated with all children and teachers gathering on the verandah of the Nursery rooms (we love getting together ... babies to preschoolers!) to listened to a dreamtime story 'Tiddalick the Frog who caused a Flood' told by one of the Teachers using a feltboard. We all then walked over the children's play bridge acknowledging this year's theme, Bridging Now to Next. Having fun together is another area of importance in our work!

We continue to be grateful to our neighbouring schools, Holy Family Primary School and Xavier Catholic College, for the interschool visits that occur ensuring our relationship as neighbouring Parish educational facilities is fostered and sustained. Xavier Yr 9 Child Studies classes visit regularly, Holy Family Yr 6 Students have visited as part of their Social Service program this year, and the St Anne's Preschoolers visited Xavier Catholic College recently as invited guests for the unveiling of the school's new Gannga Leela Ngalli Yarning Circle and Five Nations Mural.

The 3-5 year old children recently joined over 2 million others to participate in the National Simultaneous Storytime. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. They watched the story being read on TV at 12 noon on 21st May. The book this year was The Truck Cat The Truck Cat, a story about cats and humans, immigration and identity, and homes lost and found. With illustrations by multi-award-winning artist Danny Snell and words by award-winning new voice Deborah Frenkel, The Truck Cat is the perfect book to inspire kindness and compassion in young children everywhere. Such an appropriate theme for young children.

We now look forward to our next six months of Early Childhood Education and Care in 2025.

Pilgrims of Hope

A Year of Jubilee provides a beautiful opportunity for families to grow closer together and deepen their faith. Here are some meaningful ways households can celebrate at home:

Family Activities



HOUSEHOLD PRAYER TIME

Dedicate a special time each day or week for household prayer, thanking God for the blessings received, and the challenges faced, and praying for renewal in your family life. Pray the Jubilee Prayer together as a household.

JUBILEE FEAST

Prepare a special meal where everyone contributes, to represent unity and shared blessings. Use the occasion to talk about faith, gratitude, and generosity, and maybe even the significance of jubilee years in the Church. Share stories of faith, family traditions, or memories; remember those special moments and be sure to celebrate important milestones together. Invite a neighbour, elderly person, or someone who doesn't have others to celebrate with.

MEMORY WALL OR GRATITUDE TREE

Create a wall or a tree that reflects your family's journey over the years — photos, written memories, or drawings that showcase special family moments, challenges overcome, or blessings received.

Regularly add leaves or notes of gratitude throughout the year.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Engage in acts of service as a household. This could involve helping a neighbour, volunteering at a local charity, or donating items to those in need.

Create a 'Year of Jubilee Kindness Jar' where each member places written acts of kindness they commit to do during the year.

FORGIVENESS & MERCY

Set aside a moment to ask for and offer forgiveness within the household.

Go together as a family to the sacrament of Reconciliation.

GENEROSITY

As a household, sacrifice little luxuries together (like takeaways) and put that money to a charity everyone is happy with.

Create a 'hope bag' as a household: go shopping and prepare together.

FAMILY JUBILEE RESOLUTION

As a household, choose one or more resolutions for the Year of Jubilee that reflect the themes of renewal, forgiveness, and faith. This could be a promise to spend more quality time together, develop a new family tradition, or deepen your prayer.

St. Francis Xavier
Catholic Parish Ballina

Afternoon Tea with Bishop Greg

Spend the afternoon with Bishop Greg as he shares insights with us in this Jubilee Year of Hope. Saturday, August 2nd from 2pm SFX Church Ballina.



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 cenacle 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

Join us on a journey

BIBLE IN 8 WEEKS FROM CREATION TO JESUS



Mon 28th July - Mon 22nd Sept

Weekly from 5.30pm - 7.00pm

Mother Teresa Room - SFX Parish Centre

Uncover the amazing story woven through Scripture, including the key people, places and events. Discover where biblical events are placed in world history.

A fascinating exploration of Salvation history using a colour coded timeline of the 12 time periods and video presentations by Jeff Cavins.

For more information
contact Richard Goss
0418 356 527

To Register contact the
SFX Parish Office
6681 1048