

St Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish of Ballina



Respecting the traditional people of this land—past, present and future, the Bundjalung people.

St Francis Xavier Church,
47 Cherry Street, Ballina.

welcome

Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street, Lennox Head.

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

11th January 2026



Weekend Mass Times Ballina

St Francis Xavier Church

Saturday Vigil—5.30 pm

Sunday—9.00 am

Sunday—11.00 am

Lennox Head

Holy Family Church

Sunday—7.30 am

NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

5.00 PM Ballina

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

12.00 noon Ballina

ADORATION FRIDAY

11.00 am to 11.45 am



RECONCILIATION

9.00 am Saturday

St Francis Xavier Church

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Feast Day

St Anthony, abbot

Saturday

PRESBYTERY: Phone: (02) 6686 2042

***AFTER HOURS MOBILE:** 0423 445 639*

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

We invite everyone to our faith community.

PARISH NOTICES

'WELCOME' TO OUR PARISH THOSE VISITING DURING THIS HOLIDAY TIME



BAPTISM : Our parish family **warmly welcomes** into the faith and life of the Catholic Church this weekend : **Frankie Jude and Bobby Benjamin Merrick** children of Benjamin and Ashley.



'WELCOME'
BRENDON CLARKE who has joined our
Parish Pastoral Team.
Brendon will fill the full time position of
Parish Pastoral Associate.

THANK YOU



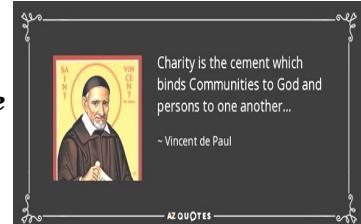
Ballina Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society would like to extend a huge **thank you** to the parishioners and communities of our parish, Holy Family and St Francis Xavier Primary Schools and Xavier Catholic College for their overwhelming generosity towards the Jesse Tree/ Christmas Appeal and Christmas Hampers Appeal.

This generosity enabled the Conference to make Christmas a little more special for 125 families.

Together with your support we did make a difference to people's lives.

Thank you once again, we could not achieve this outcome without your kindness.

Ballina Conference, St Vincent De Paul Society



Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another...

— Vincent de Paul

8 SESSION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Evening sessions will begin on **Monday 2nd February** at 5.30 pm in the Saint Teresa Room.

Morning sessions will begin on **Thursday 5th February** at 10.00 am in the Saint Teresa Room.

Phn 6681 1048 to register your attendance at either session. Everyone is welcome.

The CATHOLIC WEEKLY on sale following each weekend Mass. **\$2.00 ea**

COLUMBAN 2026 CALENDARS are still available from the Parish Office.

\$10.00 each

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Erick Quinteros

Deacon: Rev Assoc. Prof Anthony Gooley

Pastoral Associate: Brendon Clarke email: pastoralassociate@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Kailani Tiernan Email: ktiernan@sfxballina.org.au

Phone: 02 6681 1048; 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: Principal: Mr Tony Hunter - 02 6686 3370 - Swift St, Ballina

Holy Family Primary: Principal: Mr Murray Deep - 02 6687 5311- 40 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head

Xavier Catholic College: Principal: Mr Michael Campbell - 02 6687 6484 - 2 Redford Drive,

Skennars Head

St Anne's Long Day Care Centre: Director: Mrs Narelle Dewhurst - 02 6687 5961- 42 Isabella Drive,

Skennars Head

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

Independent Living Village, Residential Aged Care, Home Care Services

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A: 17th/18th January 2026
Readings: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil	7.30 am Lennox Head	9.00 am Ballina	11.00 am Ballina
Readers	Matt Ritchie Mick Vella	Amanda Deep Murray Deep	Richard Goss Nicole Sullivan	Brendon Clarke Leanne Robbins
EMOHC	Yvonne Head Phil Chapman	Deacon Anthony Adam Sullivan Cathy Campbell	Maurice Gahan
Offertory Procession			Cathy Andrews Diana Evans	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Daphne Sweeney (mother of Sr Kathryn), Margaret Hosking Pippen, **THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Robyn Hancock, Dawn McLellan, Mick Ronan, Joan Flew, Cardinal George Pell, Hortense Dunn, Marie Rogers, John Joseph Moreland

AND ALSO FOR: Jean & George Carter, Robert Houston, Barbara & Russ Vaudeberg, Ross Webb, Michael Stokes, Alane Atangana-Etundi, Jack & Marie Flood, Phillip Dykes, Marj & Pat Hobbins, Carolina Bordin, Armando Bordin, John Patrick Moreland, Margaret Moreland, Ted Murphy, James & Mary Rogers, Cath Waddell, C & S Hosie, Mick & Gwynne Waugh, Fay Kerslake, Rina, Charlie & James Volpatti, Thama Walker, Bill & Jean Shay, Cecilia & Bill Condon Snr, Stan & Mary McKeough, Members of the SVdP Conference & Auxiliary & for all the faithful departed.

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL: Andrea Bernabey, Caceres family, Gustavo Caceres, Daniel Freeman, Luke Willett, Gloria Bordin, Veronica Bennett (Gold Coast), Nancy and Joan Obonyo, Nate Doolan, Joy Long (Sydney), Paddy Mulgrew (Northern Ireland), Joy Schneider, Alisha Nobbs (Brisbane), Severina Nady Verdeflor, Gloria Greguric, Steven Kennessey & family, Kevin Sullivan, Matt Ritchie, Issac Kruger, Craig Cunneen Annemarie Higgins, Michael Hains, Kellie Savage, Lorraine Ball, Helen Johnston, Phyl Cullinane, Shirley Kirkland, Nell Anderton, Doreen McIntyre, Semmens family (Tas), Janice McNair, Michael Townsend, Peter Groom (Dalby), David Le'Feve Lynette Holland (Tas), Kathleen Young, Loretta Heaton, Graham Clark, Kathy Fraser, Mary Evans, Noeline Conyngham, Louise King, Michael Lyons, Pam Murray, Virginia Kohlbach & family, Ronald Windle, Jones & Skimmings

UP COMING PARISH EVENTS 2026

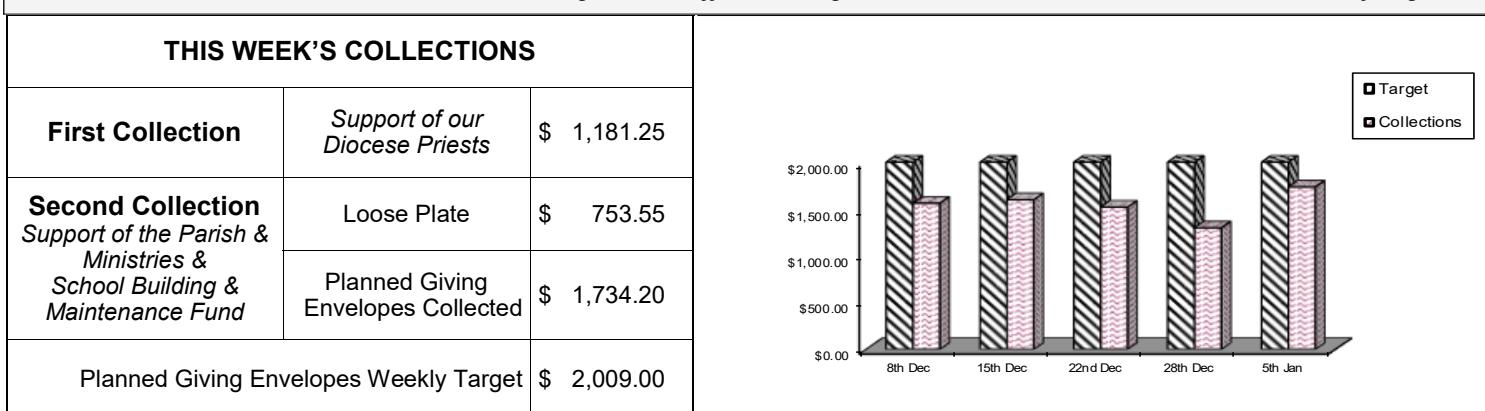
13th January	Tuesday 10.00 am	'Cherry' Coffee
26th January	Monday	Australia Day Public Holiday
1st February	Sunday 9.45 am & 11.00 am	Parish Cuppa Grounds of the Church
2nd February	Monday 5.30 pm	Gospel of Matthew St Teresa Room
3rd February	Tuesday 10.00 am	Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus Lennox Head
5th February	Thursday 10.00 am	Gospel of Matthew St Teresa Room
18th February	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday



THANK YOU to all Parishioners for your continued efforts to maintain your pledge to the Parish Planned Giving program. **Thank you** also for your donations to the Presbytery collection to assist the priests in our Diocese. Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Erick**

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ **1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS ARE COLLECTED SEPARATELY AT MASS
COLLECTION:** Parishioners are able to continue their contribution to our clergy and the parish if they wish by following the following information. By completing a form available from the Parish Office to have a credit card deduction each month for your Planned Giving Donation ONLY By making an EFTPOS donation —
***1st Collection to Ballina Presbytery BSB: 082 522 A/c 50960 2127 ref: your name**
***2nd Collection to St Francis Xavier Parish BSB 082 522 A/c 50960 3218 Please use your Planned Giving number as reference.**

DIF PAYS 3.40% PER ANNUM - BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker
 87-89 River St Ballina 026686 2711 - Crowley Admin Office Cherry St Ballina 1300 139 099 or online www.dif.org.au



Bringing joy to others

Father Anthony had a reputation of being a 'giant' among the Redemptorists and in the Church. He was a highly respected missionary priest, preacher, confessor, teacher, author, and spiritual director.

My experience of Anthony was not as a 'giant'. I never saw him stand. I never saw him walk. I never saw him celebrate Mass. I never heard him preach. My experience of Anthony was as a beloved confrere, confined to bed battling Parkinson's disease and suffering greatly from its effects.

One memory of Anthony will always remain with me. I was saying goodbye to him one day before going away for work. He said to me, Thank you for spending time with me, otherwise I would be here shaking alone." Anthony was referring to the constant tremors that racked his body, particularly his hands and arms.

This simple encounter with Anthony was a turning point for me; a valuable life lesson. His words really struck a chord and they roused me from my slumber. His words challenged me to be more attentive to people and their needs and to appreciate what's really important and of value in life. Anthony's powerful statement taught me that I don't have to do very much to bring a little happiness, love, joy and companionship into someone's life.

I left Anthony's room that day filled with new understanding and insight; sent out to live differently and to relate to people around me with renewed purpose.

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River is a major turning point in his life. After decades of silent obscurity in Nazareth, Jesus is overwhelmed by an experience of being the Son of God: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased". Through these words, Jesus profoundly experiences that he is loved and delighted in by his Father and he's never the same again. He doesn't look back. Gone are his days of plying the carpenter's trade.

Now Jesus sets out on his mission to preach, teach and heal. He generously shares with everyone, the love and intimacy he experienced at his baptism, because God says to every person: You are my beloved son.

He reveals God's love to the whole world. Jesus is also ready to challenge his contemporaries by taking the side of the poor against their oppressors; helping people reclaim their God-given humanity and dignity. Everything Jesus says and does during his public ministry comes from his intimate communion with his Father, so clearly demonstrated at his baptism.

You are my beloved. Today, God says this to each one of us, with immense love and delight. May these words be a turning point in our lives that lead us closer to God and each other.

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2026



CATECHISTS MATTER

Volunteers NEEDED for 2026

An invitation to consider and reflect upon if you are able help in this rewarding mission.

Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help sow the seeds of **FAITH, HOPE and LOVE** in **GOD** into the hearts of the children in our local State Schools? Our parish needs Catechists and Helpers to assist in the faith development of children in the State schools in our community. For more information on becoming a Catechist contact the Parish Office 6681 1048 or Peter Bowen Parish Catechist Co-ordinator phn 0421 518 371.

Please give some thought to this important invitation.

You will be supplied with resources and be part of a very enthusiastic and vibrant team.

VOLUNTEER



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to be involved in our weekend Masses, assisting with the Offertory procession, Mass laptop operator, or being a 'welcomer' or handing out the parish bulletin, please advise the Parish Office.

Perhaps you might like to help when we have our "Parish Morning teas" once a month or be a part of the music ministry. Your assistance in any of these activities will be greatly appreciated. Contact 6681 1048 or email admin@sfxballina.org.au *Thank you.*

REFLECTION : 'We are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and static,' Pope Leo says, 'but for an existence that is constantly renewed through gift of self in love.' Our baptismal calling is, after all, a call to action!

'There is a burning question in our hearts,' the Pope reflects, 'a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom and mediocrity?'

The Pope encourages us to recollect that 'the fullness of our existence does not depend on what we store up.' As we return from the holiday season to Ordinary Time, we may well reflect on this: Life is about more than possessions.

'We need to lift our eyes,' the Pope says, and 'realise that everything in the world has meaning only insofar as it serves to unite us to God and to our brothers and sisters in charity.'

We should, the Pope says, appreciate that 'fullness has to do with what we joyfully welcome and share.' Our lives are more fulsome when they are open to celebrating the gifts and serving the needs of others. © *Nick Brodie Liturgy Help*

NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are a new parishioner of St Francis Xavier Parish, **we welcome you to our faith community.** Please take the time to fill in a card at the back of the Church and place in the box provided or contact the parish office. If you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, cards are available for completion at the Parish Administration Office. Your details will be processed and a tracking number provided. Contact SFX Parish Admin office on 6681 1048 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution and monthly deductions by Credit Card.

We look forward to meeting you.

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre for all enquiries please contact John Cheadle by ringing the Parish Admin Office 6681 1048.

Taizé: In recess.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday 11.00 am

Prayer of the Church & Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church Ballina

CCR: In recess.

Marian Cenacle: In recess.

Parish Youth Group: In recess



Interest Rate — 3.40% For further information and our current rate, Please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all weekend Masses.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of
the nations, to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **(R.)**
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

FOR THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY 13th, & WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2026 ~ MASS AT 5.00 PM

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison:
Behold him, the name of whose empire is eternal.

Communion Antiphon: With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.

THURSDAY 15th & FRIDAY 16th JANUARY 2026 ~ MASS AT 12.00 NOON

Entrance Antiphon: Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of angels adore, singing in unison:
Behold him, the name of whose empire is eternal

Communion Antiphon: With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Jordan River runs the length of Israel, from north of the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea in the south, and is the life-blood of the land.
- The exact site of the baptism of Jesus by John is unknown, but the traditional site is at el-Mughtas, about ten and a half kilometres north of the point where the river enters the Dead Sea.
- The word baptism comes from a Greek word meaning 'to plunge'.
- The first Christians were baptised by being plunged into running streams or rivers, following the practice of John. Later, large fonts were built in churches, and baptism of the faithful, usually adults, was by full immersion.

MAKING CONNECTION: Spend some time each day in quiet contemplation of what the 'voice from heaven' is saying to you and what you must do to be pleasing to God.

Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office is available:
to listen to your concerns respectfully, offer support, and provide
guidance in embedding Safeguarding Standards.

Phone (02) 6621 9444

email:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

