

St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Ballina

Respecting the traditional people of this land, the Bundjalung people



St Francis Xavier Church,
47 Cherry Street,
Ballina

welcome

Holy Family Church,
94 Ballina Street,
Lennox Head.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B)

15th August, 2021

**DUE TO THE
CURRENT
LOCKDOWN
ALL PLACES OF
WORSHIP ARE
NOW CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE.**

Online streaming of
Sunday Mass can be
viewed on the Lismore
Diocesan Website or at
the following link:

[youtube.com/c/
LismoreDioceseAU](https://youtube.com/c/LismoreDioceseAU)
or use this QR code



Feasts this week

St Bernard
Friday

St Pius X
Saturday

Mary's song is our song

Mary set out quickly from Nazareth to a town in the hill country of Judah, to visit her older cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with the child we know as John the Baptist. Mary is carrying her own child, Jesus. At the presence of Jesus and his mother, the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy!

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, excitedly bursts into praise. She recognises the special position of Mary and her Son: *"Of all women you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb."* Then, it's Mary's turn to sing God's praises in the song we call the 'Magnificat'.

Mary begins by proclaiming God's greatness: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my Saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.* Mary's happy because God has affirmed

and honoured her lowliness; calling her to faithful service. God's special care is for little ones. Mary echoes the same joy that Jesus blesses the Father, because God is hidden to 'the wise and the learned' and is revealed to 'the little ones'. In the New Covenant, God's 'preference' is for the lowly and humble who are specially favoured. 'Greatness' doesn't come from social status!

From this day forward all generations will call me blessed. This isn't an arrogant statement. Rather, it's humble thanksgiving. What an extraordinary grace to be chosen to be the mother of the world's Saviour. Mary rejoices

and is deeply grateful for being chosen for this privilege. It's yet another sign of God's desire that the poor, the weak, the marginalised, the wounded, the exploited and discriminated against in this world should be the special recipients of God's love, care and concern.

Mary knows that God's faithful love and mercy *reaches from age to age* and accompanies all generations. It's the message Jesus preached and lived and that's why disciples need to 'be merciful as your Father is merciful'. Mary, in a very special way, embodies the tenderness of God and points us to Jesus' fundamental message, that God's true nature is compassion and love.

Mary proclaims the God of the poor, who *pulls down princes from their thrones*, removes their power to oppress and sends them away empty handed. In-

deed, God will *exalt the lowly*, so they reclaim their dignity and worth. God will *fill the hungry with good things*, so they enjoy a more valued and just life. In other words, the last shall be first, and the first last.

Today, with faith and trust, we're invited to make Mary's song our own; and to live our lives guided by its spirit and deep simplicity. The fulfilment of the song's promises and Mary's fidelity to them, 'led her home' to eternal life with God. Where she has gone, we hope to follow.

David J Hore, CSsR
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Our Parish Churches are both registered Covid-19 Safe places of worship.

Catholics from the Diocese of Lismore are dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.

PRESBYTERY: Phone: 6686 2042
AFTER HOURS MOBILE: 0423 445 639

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

PARISH LIBRARY:

SCHOOLS:

AGED CARE:

Administrator of Ballina Parish: Father Peter Padsungay

Assistant Priest: Father Anselm Okeke

Pastoral Associate: John Kearney Email: john@sfxballina.org.au

Parish Youth Co-Ordinator: Amelia Kearney Email: ameliarose_k@hotmail.com

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

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

www.sfxballina.org.au

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Charlie Clements, Andrew Bilski (*Canberra*), Francis (Frank) Gaudron,

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Kevin Doherty

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

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Maureen West (*Sydney*), Noro Ruben Mazzorchi, Dorothy Preddey (*Sydney*), Fr Louis Molloy sm, Kath Young, Una Smith, Narelle King, Tom Mills, Maureen Donovan, Rose Norris, Kathleen Campbell, Gregory Thomas, Barbara Levett, Danny Reynolds (*Caloundra*), John McCoy, Greg Shore, Elsie Evans, Maureen Kearnes, Louise King, Patrick Connelly, Patricia Evans, Greg Campbell, June Ianna, John Heaton, Dympna Sheehy, Maria Hosking, Kaley Nobbs, Reanna Mulholland (*Dubai*), Corazon Accon, Nola Johnson, Pauline McLachlan, Chanice Wills, Shokat Forghani & family, Margaret Murphy, Kaia Randall, Darcy Martin, Charlie Scotcher, (*Aunty*) Julia Paden, John Moreland, Yvonne & Peter Thurtell, Louise Wilson, Michael O'Connor, Graham Robertson, Gloria Greguric, Joy Hepworth, Leo Lane, Mary Topham, Bob Grant, Michael Everson, Pat Evans, Virginia, Sarah and Peter Kolhbach, Samantha Anderson, *Crowley Village, St Andrew's Nursing Home, RSL Life Care, Bupa Aged Care.* (Those who are ill names will be removed after six weeks. Please advise the parish office if you wish names to remain or be removed if good health as been restored.)

THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISMS: Will be held on Saturday's at 11.00 am in St Francis Xavier Church. A week's notice prior to the preferred Baptism is essential for preparation and notification to the Priest.

Under the current restrictions of 4 square metres people to sit in pews marked with X. Please contact Parish Admin 6681 1048.

CONFIRMATION: TBA **RECONCILIATION:** TBA. **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** TBA

WEDDINGS: In either church. Arrange an appointment with a Priest. Please allow at least 6 months for compulsory preparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office if anointing is required.

HOSPITAL: If you have a loved one in hospital and require a priest, please contact the parish office 6681 1048.

GUIDELINES WHEN ATTENDING MASS IN BOTH OUR PARISH CHURCHES.

- **If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend Mass.**
 - **MASKS MUST BE WORN WHILE IN OUR CHURCHES**
 - Register prior to attending Mass by ringing the parish office 6681 1048.
 - QR check-in is available.
 - **Use hand sanitiser provided at entrance and exit doors.**
 - **Sit on crosses (X) allocated in the pews** to comply with the required social distancing rules of **4 square metres** (*families can sit together*).
 - **Singing is prohibited.**
 - 5 x weekend Masses and 4 x weekday Masses are celebrated each week in our parish.
 - Our churches are open for private prayer Monday to Friday, please sign the sheet provided when visiting.
- You are very welcome to our places of worship. Thank you.



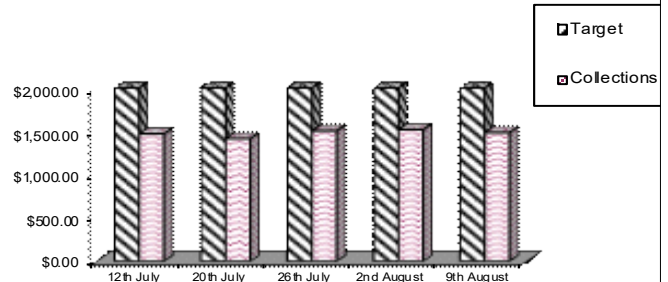
Low Gluten Hosts are available from the Priest at all weekend Masses.

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 Presbyterium collection to assist the priests in our Diocese (1st collection).

Our sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy. **Father Peter and Father Anselm**

THIS WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Support of our Diocese Priests	\$ 827.90
Second Collection Support of the Parish & Ministries & School Building & Maintenance Fund	Loose Plate	\$ 329.90
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,485.00
Planned Giving Envelopes Weekly Target		\$ 2,009.00



DIF PAYS 0.45% PER ANNUM

BALLINA AGENTS: Michael Shay, L J Hooker 87-89 River St Ballina 6686 2711 - Crowley Admin Office Cherry St Ballina 1300 139 099

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH BALLINA - PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM: If you are a new parishioner to Ballina or an existing one and 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 4.00 pm.

For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution.

Parish Notices

We pray that Mary our Mother, will intercede for us, and bring an end to this pandemic.
Amen.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST, 2021

'Lord have mercy' in this time of the pandemic.
Join online gatherings with church leaders offering prayers and reflections at various times during the day.
Register for Zoom link plus daily devotions at
www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/lordhavemercy



BISHOP GREG'S SUNDAY MASS LIVE ON YOUTUBE

You are invited to view the Sunday Mass live and on demand from your devices. You can access the livestream by following the link from lismorediocese.org, or by going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:



Time of Live Streaming: Sunday at 9.00



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

will be celebrated on the 29th August.

The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, **"Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor"**, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for **Justice, Ecology and Peace**, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or Tel (02) 6201 9845.

JAMBEROO ABBEY ONLINE RETREAT

Meet Me in the Middle—September 5th 2021

This retreat is based on Charles Peguy's Little Girl Hope from the book: "The Portal of the Mystery of Hope." Hope is both a virtue and a mystery. It is desirable yet elusive. Many dismiss it, misunderstand it, shrug it off and turn their backs on it, extolling faith and charity instead. Whilst faith and charity are absolutely critical in these times of uncertainty and fear in society, there is now a need for hope as never before since World War II. *All enquiries jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats*

ASSUMPTION VIGIL MASS READINGS

First Reading: 1 Chr 15:3-4. 15-16; 16:1-2

A reading from the first book of Chronicles

David gathered all Israel together in Jerusalem to bring the ark of God up to the place he had prepared for it. David called together the sons of Aaron and the sons of Levi, and the Levites carried the ark of God with the shafts on their shoulders, as Moses had ordered in accordance with the word of the Lord.

David then told the heads of the Levites to assign duties for their kinsmen as cantors, with their various instruments of music, harps and lyres and cymbals, to play joyful tunes.

They brought the ark of God in and put it inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and they offered holocausts before God, and communion sacrifices. And when David had finished offering holocausts and communion sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, go up to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.

1. At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
'Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.' **(R.)**

2. Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed. **(R.)**

3. For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
'This is my resting-place for ever,
here have I chosen to live.' **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:54-57

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 11:27-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Happy the womb that bore you and the breasts you sucked!' But he replied, 'Still happier those who hear the word of God and keep it!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Christian Meditation Group: Saturday 9.30 am Anawim Room, Admin Centre

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 11.00 am to 11.45 am every Friday

Sisterhood: Monday 10.30 am St Teresa Room, Admin Centre

Parish Youth Group: Upper Room Admin Centre, Saturdays 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

Ballina CCR : Monday 2.15 to 4.00 pm in the Anawim Room, Admin Centre

Prayer of the Church and Rosary: Saturday 9.00 am SFX Church.

Rosary at Holy Family Church Lennox Head: 8.00 am Wednesday mornings with Chaplet of Divine Mercy and 7.00 am Sunday mornings before 7.30 am Mass.

Welcome to our prayer gatherings.



First Reading: Rv 11:19,12:1-6,10;

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet.

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

1. The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: forget your own people and your father's house. **(R.)**

2. So will the king desire your beauty: He is your lord, pay homage to him. They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1Cor 15:20-26;

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his

enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 1:39-56

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

– according to the promise he made to our ancestors

– of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home

The Gospel of the Lord.



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SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH ~ 1st & 2nd COLLECTIONS

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 Presbyterium
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 ensure you use your Planed Giving number as reference**
- **By completing a form that allows your bank to deduct your gift from your account into the account of the Parish, available from the Parish Office or, place your envelopes in the baskets provided in the church or bring them to the Parish Office at your convenience. Thank you.**



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516



The Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF) is not subject to the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 nor has it been examined or approved by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Deposits with the DIF are guaranteed by CDPF Limited, a company established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for this purpose. We welcome your investment with the DIF rather than with a profit oriented commercial organisation as a conscious commitment by you to support the Charitable, Religious and Educational works of the Catholic Church. Neither the DIF nor the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Lismore are prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority; contributions to the DIF do not obtain the benefit of the depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959; the DIF is designed for investors who wish to promote the charitable purposes of the DIF.