Holy Family is part of parish family of St Francis Xavier, Ballina in the Diocese of Lismore.

Our Churches

St Francis Xavier is our parish church. It is situated in central Ballina on the corner of Cherry and Crane Streets.

Ballina Parish has a second church at nearby Lennox Head, which serves the northern parts of the parish.
Parish Personnel

Fr Michael Nilon  
(Parish Priest)

Fr Stefan Matuszek  
(Parish Assistant Priest)

Sr Kathryn Sweeney  
(Pastoral Associate)

Parish Mass and Reconciliation Times

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY MASS TIMES</th>
<th>RECONCILIATION TIMES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BALLINA</strong></td>
<td><strong>BALLINA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00 pm Saturday</td>
<td>9.00 - 10.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vigil</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am Sunday</td>
<td>after 5.20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LENNOX HEAD</strong></td>
<td><strong>LENNOX HEAD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30 am Sunday</td>
<td>after 8.00 am</td>
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<td>Mass 4th Thursdays</td>
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Our Parish Heritage

1788  Arrival of the First Fleet under Captain Arthur Phillip
       Catholics were served by Irish convict priests

1834  Bede Polding appointed first Bishop of Sydney

1862  Fr J Murphy appointed first priest-in-charge of a parish which
       encompassed Coffs Harbour, Tenterfield, Tweed and Ballina. He
       administered his parish from Grafton.

1881  First Church of St Francis Xavier at Ballina opened.

First St Francis Xavier Church, middle building, was later converted into the school house,
before again being moved into the current school site.
St Francis Xavier's second church built in 1901, far right.
1887 Fr Jeremiah Doyle, appointed Bishop of Grafton. (1900: Lismore)

1890 Parish of Ballina established under its first Parish Priest, Fr John Hearn.

1892 Presentation Sisters arrive in Ballina and set up their first classroom in the church.

1893 St Francis Xavier Primary School established under principal Sr Patrick Power.

1900 Diocese of Grafton became the Diocese of Lismore.

1901 New St Francis Xavier Church opened by Bishop Doyle.

1906 Bishop Doyle begins the construction of St Carthage's Cathedral in Lismore.

1909 John Carroll consecrated second Bishop of Lismore.
1917  Fr Charles Cullen, second Parish Priest of Ballina.

1919  St Carthage’s Cathedral consecrated.

1945  Monsignor Jerome O’Rourke, third Parish Priest of Ballina.

1949  Patrick Farrelly became third Bishop of Lismore.

1955  Church of the Holy Family opened in Lennox Head.
Holy Family Church was the original church of Alstonville (1887)

**1962**  
Current St Francis Xavier Church opened.

**1964**  
Dean Redford appointed as fourth Parish Priest of Ballina.

**1971**  
John Satterthwaite became fourth Bishop of Lismore.

**1986**  
Fr Terry Smith appointed as fifth Parish Priest of Ballina.
1993 Fr Richard Foley appointed as sixth Parish Priest of Ballina.

1997 Holy Family Catholic Primary opens in Skennars Head under Principal Paul Cronin.

2000 Xavier Catholic College opens in Skennars Head under Principal, Eric Littler.

2000 Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett became fifth Bishop of Lismore.
2004 Fr Michael Nilon became seventh Parish Priest of Ballina.