

Our Parish



St Francis Xavier: Ballina



Parish Administration
02 6681 1048



P.O. Box 46
Ballina NSW 2478 Australia



admin@sfxballina.org.au

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.



St Francis Xavier Church: Ballina

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



Holy Family Church: Lennox Head

Parish Personnel



Fr Michael Nilon

(Parish Priest)



Fr Stefan Matuszek

(Parish Assistant Priest)



Sr Kathryn Sweeney

(Pastoral Associate)

Parish Mass and Reconciliation Times

SUNDAY MASS Times

BALLINA

6.00 pm Saturday Vigil

9.00 am Sunday

LENNOX HEAD

7.30 am Sunday

RECONCILIATION Times

BALLINA

9.00 - 10.00 am Saturday
after 5.20 pm Mass Tuesday

LENNOX HEAD

after 8.00 am Mass 4th
Thursdays

Our Parish Heritage

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

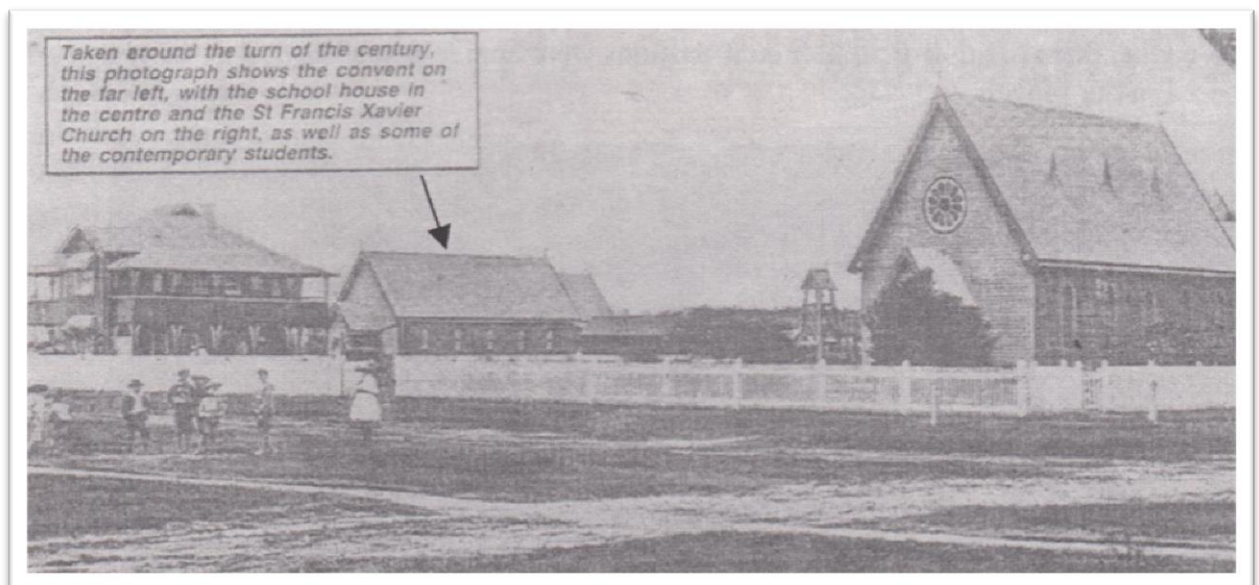
1834 Bede Polding appointed first Bishop of Sydney



Bishop Polding

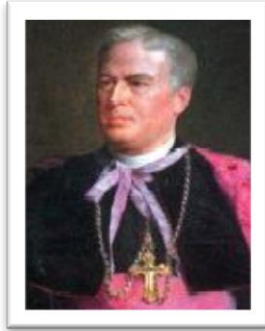
1862 Fr J Murphy appointed first priest-in-charge of a parish which encompassed Coffs Harbour, Tenterfield, Tweed and Ballina. He administered his parish from Grafton.

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)



Bishop Doyle
(1887-1909)

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.

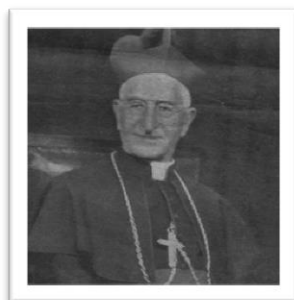
1900 Diocese of Grafton became the Diocese of Lismore.

1901 New St Francis Xavier Church opened by Bishop Doyle.

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



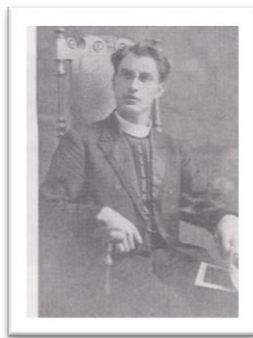
1909 John Carroll consecrated second Bishop of Lismore.



Bishop Carroll
(1910-1949)

1917

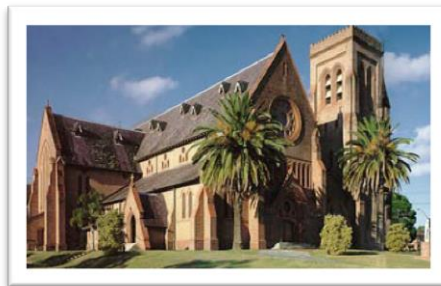
Fr Charles Cullen, second Parish Priest of Ballina.



Fr Charles Cullen
(1916-1945)

1919

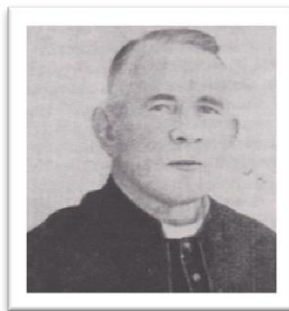
St Carthage's Cathedral consecrated.



St Carthage's Cathedral

1945

Monsignor Jerome O'Rourke, third Parish Priest of Ballina.



Monsignor Jerome O'Rourke
(1945-1963)

1949

Patrick Farrelly became third Bishop of Lismore.



Bishop Farrelly
(1949-1971)

1955

Church of the Holy Family opened in Lennox Head.



Holy Family Church was the original church of Alstonville (1887)

1962

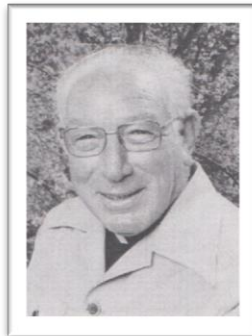
Current St Francis Xavier Church opened.



St Francis Xavier Church

1964

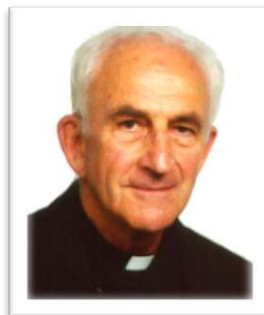
Dean Redford appointed as fourth Parish Priest of Ballina.



Fr Dean Redford
(1964-1986)

1971

John Satterthwaite became fourth Bishop of Lismore.



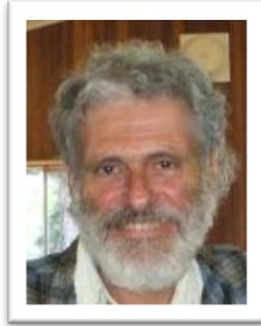
John Satterthwaite
(1971-2000)

1986

Fr Terry Smith appointed as fifth Parish Priest of Ballina.

1993

Fr Richard Foley appointed as sixth Parish Priest of Ballina.



Fr Richard Foley
(1993-)

1997

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



Holy Family

2000

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



Xavier Catholic College

2000

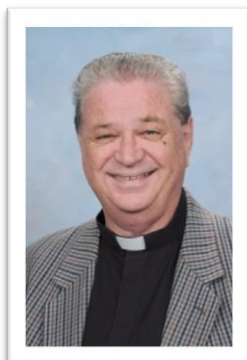
Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett became fifth Bishop of Lismore.



Bishop Jarrett
(2000 -)

2004

Fr Michael Nilon became seventh Parish Priest of Ballina.



Fr Michael Nilon
(2004)