



# The Living Spirit

The Bulletin of Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, Byron Bay / Bangalow

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay

St. Kevin's, Bangalow

## The art of forgiveness.

6<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year C



During Lent have we passed judgment on anyone? On social media say, which thrives on it, or at home, at work, perhaps in church, wherever we find ourselves. Often, we criticise others so we feel satisfied we're not like them, and as we do, we happily deflect attention from our own lives.

However, in this week's gospel Jesus shines a light on the woman brought before him where he sits in the Temple teaching the people; on the scribes and Pharisees who want to trap him; and on us. There's a lot riding on what Jesus says to the woman's accusers because they hope he condemns himself, whatever about her. She might soon be dead because the Law stipulated, she be killed for adultery, though it called for the man's death too, revealing that for her accusers she is simply a means to an end.

Initially Jesus says nothing, so they persist with their questioning. Then he looks up and asks them to consider their own lives if they are to cast the first stone, turning the spotlight back on them: feeling exposed, they move silently away.

Jesus now speaks with her – he's the only one who does - and he doesn't condemn her, or excuse her, instead he offers her the possibility of a first step towards forgiveness. In doing so he reminds us that the naming of our sin and the experience of forgiveness will only happen where there is love, where we are accepted.

*(Continued on back page)*

### Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

*“The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.”*

### Gospel Acclamation.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

With all your heart turn to me,  
For I am tender and compassionate.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

TODAY'S READINGS - Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 125; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

**Holy Spirit Parish**  
**Father David Gilbey – Parish Priest**

#### Parish Office

50 Tennyson St, (PO Box 1816)  
Byron Bay NSW 2481

#### Office Hours

9.30am – 2pm  
Tuesday and Wednesday

**Phone:** (02) 6685 6260

**Email:** stfins@bigpond.com

#### Churches

St Finbarr's 50 Tennyson St, Byron Bay  
St Kevin's Deacon Street, Bangalow

**Parish School:** St Finbarr's Primary School

**Principal:** Tim Bleakley

**Ph:** (02) 6685 6342

**Email:** sfpbyron@lism.catholic.edu.au

**Parish Website:** <https://byronbayparish.org.au>

#### WEEKDAY MASS

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**  
9.30am St Finbarr's, Byron Bay  
*Feast Day: St Stanislaus*

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**BYRON BAY**      **BANGALOW**  
**Sat 12/04 6pm**    **Sun 13/04 9.30am**

St Finbarr's Church    St Kevin's Church  
50 Tennyson St      Deacon St  
Byron Bay              Bangalow

Holy Spirit Parish

### PLANNED GIVING CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES / DIRECT DEBIT

- \* **Option 1: Collection Boxes at Church entrance.**
- \* **Option 2: Church Collection Plate.**
- \* **Option 3: Direct Debit, details as follows:**

**1<sup>st</sup> COLLECTION:** (Clergy)      **2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION:** (Parish)  
 BSB: 082 489                      BSB: 082 489  
 A/C: 172 178 008                 A/C: 172 177 961

*Thank you for your continued  
Parish financial support.*

*Fr David Gilbey PP*

**13<sup>th</sup> April  
2025**  
Palm Sunday  
Passion of the  
Lord.  
Year C

**St Finbarr's  
Byron Bay  
6pm 12/04**  
Saturday

**St Kevin's  
Bangalow  
9.30am**  
Sunday

LECTOR/S

Ann  
McCabe

Trisha  
Bleakley

MINISTER OF  
COMMUNION

Tony  
McCabe

#### NEXT WEEK (Palm Sunday, Year C)

Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps 21; Philippians 2:6-11;  
Luke 22:14 – 23:56

### CUPPA AFTER MASS - PLEASE JOIN US AT ST FINBARR'S



- For a "Cuppa" after 6pm Mass  
**TONIGHT, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.**  
**All Invited!**

### WELCOME TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Leo John Puxty

*We welcome our newly baptised and their families to our  
Holy Spirit Parish worshipping community.*



### CUPPA AFTER MASS - PLEASE JOIN US AT ST KEVIN'S



- for a "Cuppa" after 9.30am Mass  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.**

*Please bring a plate of goodies to share.*

**A Special invite to our fellow Parishioners who might be joining  
us from St Finbarr's.**

#### Please pray for the Recently Deceased:

Peter Lemon, Eddie Phillips, Jeanne Sjoberg,  
Joan Baker, Bill Mitchell, Ann Cash-Huish,  
Barbara & Mark Smith, Trevor Kendrick,  
Margaret Lynn, Malcolm Larkin, Fr. John Kelly,  
Cugino Joe Inzitari, Colin Meanwell, Valda  
O'Brien-Cox (Hopkins), Genny Crane (Weir),  
Patricia Launder, Lyn Riddle (nee Hopkins)

#### Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Rita Payne, Stephanie Lemon, Domenico &  
Olympia Rose Stambe, Fr Charles Kakumanu &  
Fr Stephen O'Donnell Tooti Dunn, John Zentveld,  
Carmello Farrugia, Adrian Hodson, Eric  
McGettigan, Deirdre Cox, John White, Helen  
Holland, Agnes Finlay, Manual Palafox Snr,  
Mark Stickens, Dorothy Tickle, Kevin Collins,  
Kevin Scanlon, Eileen Gilbey, Kate Stirling, Sr.  
Kathleen McGettigan RSJ, Margaret McGettigan,  
Frances Buckley, Warren Meanwell, Faith  
Denholm, Carmel Apps, Joan Hurley, Terry Potts

#### As a faith community, we pray with our brothers and sisters in their time of need:

Louise Banno, Carmel Mitchell, Robert Asquith,  
Mary Phelps, Val Meanwell, Kath Lourey,  
Fr Anthony Lemon, Matthew O'Sullivan, Carmel  
Kenway, William Farrugia, Mathew O'Meara

*(Due to Privacy Laws, names are only placed on this list when  
requested by the sick person or family member and will remain on  
the list for at least 6 weeks. As we are not aware if illness  
improves or continues, you are welcome to make a further request  
for inclusion.)*

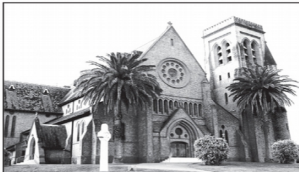
### CHRISM MASS

**St Carthage's Cathedral  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm**

**ROSARY** Friday 8.50am St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay

#### RECONCILIATION

**Vigil Mass: St Finbarr's, Byron Bay 5.30 - 5.50pm**  
**Sunday: St Kevin's, Bangalow 9.00 - 9.20am**



# Invest with peace of mind

[www.dif.org.au](http://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; contributors 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.



**ST FINBARR'S**  
Catholic Primary School

## This Week at St Finbarr's

*Loving like Jesus. Growing together as friends. Learning for life.*

So much learning at school takes place during break times. In today's digital age, children are spending more time indoors, often engaged with screens and structured activities. However, outdoor play - especially when it involves an element of risk, is crucial for their overall development. At St Finbarr's we encourage our students to explore, climb, balance, and take calculated risks in their play and this can have numerous benefits. Outdoor play allows children to develop their gross motor skills, coordination, and strength. Activities like climbing trees, running, and balancing on logs improve agility, endurance, and overall fitness. Taking small risks, such as jumping off play structures, helps them learn about their own physical limits and capabilities. Facing challenges and overcoming them builds confidence and resilience. When children take risks such as trying a new climbing frame or riding a bike without stabilisers they experience a sense of achievement, boosting their self-esteem. Learning to manage fear and uncertainty in play prepares them for real-world challenges. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful environment for our children here at St Finbarr's where children can play, explore and continue to learn and grow.

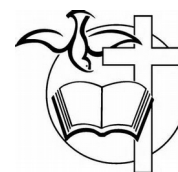
**Tim Bleakley**

Principal

*Loving, Growing, Learning for Life.*

### 2025 HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

**CONFIRMATION: Term 2 – Year 3**



**Parent Meeting:** St Finbarr's Church - 6.00pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** St Finbarr's Church - 6pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

### HOLY WEEK LITURGIES 2025 HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



<u>Palm Sunday:</u>	6.00pm	Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup> April	@	St Finbarr's Byron Bay
" " :	9.30am	Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	@	St Kevin's Bangalow
<u>Holy Thursday:</u>	7.00pm		17 <sup>th</sup> April	@	St Kevin's Bangalow
<u>Good Friday:</u>	3.00pm		18 <sup>th</sup> April	@	St Finbarr's Byron Bay
<u>Easter Vigil:</u>	*6.30pm *	Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup> April	@	St Finbarr's Byron Bay
<u>Easter Sunday:</u>	9.30am		20 <sup>th</sup> April	@	St Kevin's Bangalow

### Fifth Sunday of Lent 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 2025



The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code. **Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413



### The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully and offer support.

**Phone (02) 6621 9444**

**email:** [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)





*(Continued from front page)*

As happened when a dying man was talking with a friend who often visited him in his flat. At one point he said, 'Can I just tell you?' He was scared, afraid God wouldn't forgive him. She replied: 'Why don't you say the names of people who hurt you and the people you hurt.'

He started calling out names and after each one they said, 'Lord have mercy.' It's mercy we need, and like these friends we need to create spaces in our lives where it might happen.

With the woman in the gospel, we're invited to take a first step towards forgiveness, towards a renewed relationship with each other and with God; so that, no longer 'burdened by our persistent judgment, our constant exclusion and our withholding', we might take a first step towards the scribes and Pharisees too. For if we stop condemning her only to turn upon them, we have misunderstood Jesus, who doesn't condemn them. Instead, he encourages in us all, a change of heart.

We're invited to experience the joy of reconciliation in Lent; to experience a change of heart, so we might see a new deed come to light, a vision of new life, which the prophet Isaiah speaks of in the first reading. And this new life doesn't simply depend on our own effort, which Paul powerfully affirms in the second reading, but is God's gift to us, in Jesus: we have only to receive him into our lives.

*Damian Coleridge @ Majellan Media 2025*

### **"Pilgrims of Hope": What does it mean?**

This year's Jubilee has a special theme: 'Pilgrims of Hope.' In choosing the motto 'Pilgrims of Hope', Pope Francis noted that 'We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so greatly desire.'



We all need hope, that little spark that keeps us going even when things are tough. A "pilgrim" is someone on a journey, and this Jubilee reminds us that we're all on a journey through life. We're all searching for meaning and connection. "Pilgrims of Hope" means we're on that journey together, supporting each other and looking towards a brighter future. It's about finding hope within ourselves and sharing it with others.

### **What happens during a Jubilee Year?**

The Jubilee officially begins with the opening of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. This is a symbolic act, like opening a door to God's grace and forgiveness. Throughout the year, there will be special events, pilgrimages (spiritual journeys), and opportunities for prayer and reflection. It's a time for people to come together, share their experiences, and find common ground.

### **How can I get involved?**

No matter your background, the Jubilee Year is a great opportunity to:

**Reflect:** Take some time to think about your own life, your values, and what you want to achieve.

**Connect:** Reach out to your community, help those in need, and build stronger relationships.

**Find Hope:** Look for the positive in the world around you and nurture your own sense of hope.

**Learn:** Explore different perspectives and learn about other cultures and beliefs.



***We hope you'll join us on this journey!***

**catholic mission**  
Reach out. Give life.

**"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"**  
PSALM 46:10

**STAND WITH SEMINARIANS IN AREAS OF UNREST**

**Jubilee 2025**  
PILGRIMS OF HOPE