



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay

St. Kevin's, Bangalow

A life beyond death.

18th May, 2025
5th Sunday of Easter



John's vision of a new heaven and a new earth speaks of a time when sorrow, death and suffering will be no more. Some two thousand years later we might think that John's utopian vision is little more than wishful thinking. Moreover, if we take the words of Jesus in this week's Gospel – *"You must love one another as I have loved you"* – we can also recognise that Christians honour this commandment more in the breach than in reality.

In the words of the English playwright, G K Chesterton: *"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried"*.

However, looking at the gospel, we see the new vision of creation and the new commandment of love emerge in a world of sinfulness and evil. This is demonstrated in Judas' act of betrayal culminating in Jesus' execution on the Cross. Knowing his life was coming to such a brutal and violent end, Jesus says he is entering into God's glory. In other words, even the most barbaric human activity is ever open to the mystery of the Father's forgiveness and love being poured out over the whole of God's creation.

Elsewhere, John tells us *"no one can see God"* (Jn 1:18). And yet the divine glory is manifest throughout the whole of creation – even or especially when humans are too blind to see.

(Continued on back page)

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

*"I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you."*

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS - Acts 14:21-27; Ps 144; Rev 21:1-5; John 13:31-35

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 MASSES

Anointing Mass

Friday 23rd May, 2025

9.30am St Finbarr's, Byron Bay

WEEKEND MASSES

BYRON BAY

BANGALOW

Sat 24/05 6pm Sun 25/05 9.30am

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

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:

1st COLLECTION: (Clergy)

BSB: 082 489

A/C: 172 178 008

2nd COLLECTION: (Parish)

BSB: 082 489

A/C: 172 177 961

*Thank you for your continued
Parish financial support.*

Fr David Gilbey PP

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).

Sincere gratitude to all who give to the Parish and clergy.

Fr David Gilbey PP

MASS OF ANOINTING

Friday 9.30am

23rd May, 2025

St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay



CUPPA AFTER MASS -

PLEASE JOIN US AT ST KEVIN'S

- for a "Cuppa" after 9.30am Mass

Sunday 8th June, 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.*



2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM HOLY SPIRIT PARISH BANGALOW/BYRON BAY

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

**Wednesday 4th June: Sacrament of Confirmation
6.00pm at St Finbarr's Catholic Church**

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



ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY WEEKLY MASSES

LOLO Brunswick Heads St John's Mullumbimby
5.30pm Thursday 8am Sunday

**25th May
2025
6th Sunday of
Easter, Year C**

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay
6pm
Saturday**

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

LECTOR/S

Lorraine
Atwell

June
Zentveld

MINISTER OF
COMMUNION

Michael
Harris

NEXT WEEK

(6th Sunday of Easter, Year C)

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Psalm 66; Rev 21:10-14, 22-23;
John 14:23-29

Please pray for the Recently Deceased:

Pope Francis, 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

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Fred Higgins, Tristan Ware, John Dynan, Lloyd Gilbey, Margaret Gill, Cheryl Meanwell, Tresina Calabrese, Kevin McGettigan, Barry Gilbey, Monica Brooke, 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

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

Gordon Elder, Louise Banno, Carmel Mitchell, Robert Asquith, Mary Phelps, Kath Lourey, Matthew O'Sullivan, Carmel Kenway, 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.)

RECONCILIATION

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



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DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

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.



This Week at St Finbarr's

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

Each Wednesday morning before school this term students have the opportunity to join in the fun at Running Club on the school oval. It's a great way to start the day with relay races and games as we encourage fitness and fun. It certainly helped our Cross Country team last week with a great overall performance from the school bringing home the 'Champion School trophy'.



Our Mother's Day Liturgy and Breakfast last Friday was, once again, a special occasion. Mrs Piccoli organised a beautiful morning service as we prayed for all Mothers and our special Mother, Mary. New and old families of St Finbarr's were singing praise of the spirit and welcoming culture present at the school. Thank you to those who were able to come along and *a reminder* that all *parishioners are always welcome* to join in with school activities.



Tim Bleakley

Principal

Loving, Growing, Learning for Life.

2025 HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

CONFIRMATION: Term 2 – Year 3.

Enrolment Ceremony

Receive the Lord's Prayer

Blessing & Practice for Confirmation at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay

Sacrament: St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay - 6.00pm

Saturday/Sunday 17th-18th May

Saturday/Sunday 24th - 25th May

Saturday 31st May

Wednesday 4th June



LEO XIV IS THE NEW POPE

"Peace be with all of you!"

- the first words of Pope Leo XIV. The Conclave has elected Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost as the 267th Bishop of Rome. The new pope was announced to the waiting crowds by Cardinal Protodeacon Dominique Mamberti.



HABEMUS PAPAM!

We pray that Pope Leo XIV be strengthened in his ministry. May he continue building bridges that connect us to one another. May he be an example of faith, hope and love. We pray that you give him joy in his work and a renewed fervour for your Gospel message. Amen

VOCATIONS PRAYER CHAMPIONS.

The Diocese of Lismore vocations team is seeking vocations prayer champions. All the baptised share the vocation to be missionary disciples but some in the church are called to other vocations for building up missionary disciples. We invite women and men who will join in prayer each day for an increase in these other vocations. This year our focus in prayer will be the priesthood. We encourage you to register as a vocation's prayer champion. Prayer champions agree to pray at 9am or 6pm (both if you want) for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. At the designated time each prayer champion recites one Glory be..., one Hail Mary, one Our Father for the intention of an increase in priestly vocations.

You can register at vocations@lismore.catholic.org.au or 02 6681 1048. Leave your first name, parish and your chosen time. We will let you know how many people are in prayer with you at that time.

Deacon Anthony Gooley. Director of Vocations.



(Continued from front page)

Czech theologian, Tomas Halik, says we fail to see God, not because God is too distant, but because God is too close. God is the light by which we see everything, but we do not see the light, only that which the light reveals.

In the Old Testament we are told God's glory is manifest to Moses in a pillar of cloud and in a burning bush. God appears to Elijah in the still, small, gentle breeze. Yet God's glory is also manifest throughout all creation as in every human experience not excluding the reality of the vilest forms of human evil – such as wars, death camps, genocides, and ecological destruction. If God's glory is present in the death of Jesus, how could it be absent from anything in our entire world?

This week's readings about the "*new creation*" are also signals of life beyond death where we are invited to share in the Resurrection of Jesus. Such "good news" is something we should want to let the whole world know.

This is the story of Paul and Barnabas in the first reading. However, if we are to be real missionary disciples, our first task is to be evangelised ourselves in order to witness to the divine Creator by "*loving one another as Jesus loves us*".

Yes, this is a profound challenge. Equally what a wonderful privilege, called to be instruments of the "new creation" through our attempts and failures to be faithful disciples of Jesus. As Pope Francis says: "*whoever is in Christ is a new creation*". And in the words of St Paul: "*nothing can separate us from the love of God*" (Rom. 8:31).

Gerard Hall SM @ Majellan Media 2025

WHAT DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAY ABOUT DEBT AND THE JUBILEE YEAR?

We now face the most acute global debt crisis in history with 3.3 billion people living in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health, education or climate measures. Despite facing significant poverty burdens, countries are having to make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to properly fund essential services.

An important part of the Jubilee tradition was the cancellation of debts, giving those who had become overwhelmed by unpayable debts a fresh start (Deuteronomy 15).

Pope Francis has identified debt cancellation as a vital element of 2025 Jubilee celebrations saying:

"More than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice."

CAFOD will be pressing the UK government for action to address the debt crisis throughout 2025.



Jubilee 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE



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



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