



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay

St. Kevin's, Bangalow

Being neighbourly.

13th July, 2025

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, C.



The late Pope Francis reflected on the Parable of the Good Samaritan as a “ray of light” for our contemporary world where people too often fail to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Francis presented the Samaritan – whom he called “a stranger on the road” – as a symbol of fraternity and social friendship creating “a culture of encounter” that builds bridges of love among all people [“Fratelli Tutti”, No. 2].

We need to recall that Jesus tells this story of the “stranger on the road” in answer to some questions put to him by a Jewish lawyer. Wanting to know what the greatest commandment is, Jesus tells him “to love God and your neighbour”. Then he wants to know who his neighbour is? Jesus notes that neither the priest nor the Levite respond with love and care for the victim, most likely a fellow Jew.

We might miss a major point of this story if we fail to note how much Jews and Samaritans hated each other. Yet here we have the much-despised Samaritan being put to the Jewish lawyer as the pinnacle of human behaviour. So, when Jesus asks him which of the three – priest, Levite or Samaritan – was most neighbourly to the victim, he could but only reply “the one who shows him mercy”. Jesus then is quick to tell him: “Go and do likewise”!

(Continued on back page)

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

**“Turn to the Lord in your need,
and you will live.”**

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS - Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

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

Friday 18th July, 2025

9.30am St Finbarr's, Byron Bay

WEEKEND MASSES

BYRON BAY

Saturday 6pm

BANGALOW

Sunday 9.30am

St Finbarr's Church
50 Tennyson St
Byron Bay

St Kevin's Church
Deacon St
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

**20th July,
2025**
16th Sunday in
Ordinary Time.

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay**
6pm
Saturday 19/07/25

**St Kevin's
Bangalow**
9.30am
Sunday 20/07/25

LECTOR/S

Lorraine
Atwell

Margaret
Reid

MINISTER OF
COMMUNION

Michael
Harris

NEXT WEEK: (16th Sunday, Year C)
Genesis 18:1-10; Ps 14; Colossians 1:24-28;
Luke 10:38-42

WELCOME FR TONY – HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

We are blessed to have Fr Tony with us during this time. Fr Tony is available to anyone in our parish community who would like, pastoral direction, a visit to the sick or home visit, or simply a friendly chat and a cuppa.

If you would like to arrange a time with Fr Tony, please don't hesitate to contact him directly on 0431 122 361.

Let us continue to make him feel welcome as he supports and guides us over the coming weeks.



The Catholic Weekly

If you would like to subscribe to the Catholic Weekly an online subscription for six months will cost \$32.50 and a yearly subscription \$65.00.

Just go to the following website:-

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/subscriptions-to-the-catholic-weekly/>

RECONCILIATION

Vigil Mass: St Finbarr's, Byron Bay 5.30 - 5.50pm

Sunday: St Kevin's, Bangalow 9.00 - 9.20am



ROSARY

Friday 8.50am
St Finbarr's Church Byron Bay

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Fr Michael Brady, Gordon Elder, Gloria Kennedy, Kathleen Lourey, Fr. Peter Karam, Fr. Kevin Ehlefeldt MSC, Carole Drury, *Valma Burke*, *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

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Stephen Buckley, Carmel McLean, Teresa Pezzutti, May Higgins, Ron Maher, Roy Putt, Ron Phelps, Colin Meanwell, James Collins, Harvey & Dawn Passfield, Margaret O'Meara, Genny Weir, Bill Noonan, 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

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

Rhonda Noonan, Patricia Higgins, Louise Banno, Carmel Mitchell, Mary Phelps, 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.)



Invest with peace of mind

www.dif.org.au 1800 802 516

dif
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.



Heavenly Father,
We thank you for this school term and for all the blessings
you have given our staff and students.
As we begin our holiday break, we ask you to watch over us.
Keep everyone safe, rested, and joyful.
May this time be filled with peace, fun, and moments of grace.
Bring us back refreshed, ready to learn and grow in your love.
Amen.



2025 HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - TERM 3

First Holy Communion: Term 3 Year 4

Wednesday 13th August: **Parent Meeting - 6.00pm at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.**

Masses:

Saturday / Sunday 16th / 17th August Enrolment Ceremony.

Saturday / Sunday 23rd / 24th August Poster Presentation.

Saturday / Sunday 30th / 31st August Candles around Altar.

Saturday 6th September

Blessing + Practice after Mass in St Finbarr's Catholic Church, Byron Bay.

Saturday 13th September

Sacrament of First Holy Communion – 6pm at St Finbarr's Catholic Church, Byron Bay.



*Please pray for the children of Holy Spirit Parish preparing to receive their First Holy Communion,
that Jesus may continue to be a loving presence in their lives.*

SEA SUNDAY

Today is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Even during a pandemic, seafarers continue to bring into our ports products that sustain our population and economy. The Appeal today is for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually.



To assist this Catholic ministry, please send your donations to:
<https://stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>



Saint of the Week



Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

St Bonaventure joined the order of Franciscans in 1243, and was soon recognised for his intellectual talents. He was sent to study in Paris where he taught and preached for many years. He was a contemporary of St Thomas Aquinas, with whom he defended the mendicant friars against their opponents. In 1257, Bonaventure was elected as the head of the Franciscans, and has since been considered the greatest friar minor since St declared a doctor of the church in 1588. (*Feast Day 15 July*)



(Continued from front page)

In other words, Jesus tells his fellow Jew that he needs to become more like the non-Jewish Samaritan! In further reflection on this parable, Pope Francis challenged us all to become true neighbours to one another by actively engaging in the forming of positive relationships with people across age, race, nationality, ethnicity or religion. We are all called to build community at local and concrete levels especially with the poor, the suffering and those on the margins of society.

In other words, for Francis the parable of the Good Samaritan – or story of “*the stranger on the road*” – was much more than an example of someone who is kind and caring of a wounded victim. Rather, it is the parable and story that calls upon all human beings to overcome their selfish interests, myopic views and personal prejudices that pit us against others. In particular, as human beings and especially as Christians, we are called to lift up the lowly, care for those who suffer and even place our own lives on the line to protect innocent victims of corruption, selfishness and greed.

For Pope Francis, part of our love of neighbour was also reflected in our love and respect for our natural environment on planet earth. While nations that pollute the world are becoming increasingly wealthy, poorer countries are the major victims of climate change.

This is clearly evident in our own part of the world in the Southern Pacific. ***Let us stop, reflect and change our behaviour*** in order that all the world’s peoples become more neighbourly in respect of one another and the natural environment.

Gerard Hall @ Majellan Media 2025



Office of the
Children’s Guardian

Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse (or other concerns) are child-focused.

A child focused complaint process supports children who are exposed to the risk of harm and encourages them to speak up. Children, families and staff know who to tell if they want to make a complaint of child abuse. Child safe organisations respond by immediately protecting children at risk. Complaints are addressed promptly, thoroughly and fairly. All adults understand their reporting obligations, including to external authorities.⁶ Child safe cultures create environments where staff can identify and report suspected harm of children.



Why is this Standard important?

Implementing a child focused complaint handling procedure means people know how to make a complaint and staff know what steps to take to respond. Children are safer when complaints are addressed quickly, thoroughly and transparently, and where the family and community are supported. When the complaint process is child focused, children feel more comfortable and empowered to make a complaint. Child safe organisations use complaints as opportunities to reflect on their child safe practices. Children are at greater risk when organisations prioritise their own reputations over the safety of children.

What would we expect children to say?

- I know who to talk to if I feel uncomfortable, unsafe or unhappy.
- I know who to talk to if someone asks me to do something I don’t want to do.
- I will be believed if I speak up about something that is concerning me, and action will be taken because of it.
- I will not get in trouble if I speak up.

Indicators of success: -

- Organisational culture where complaints are taken seriously and acted on.
- Staff feel supported to raise concerns about child safety.
- Children feel safe to raise concerns about themselves or their friends.



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