



The Living Spirit

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

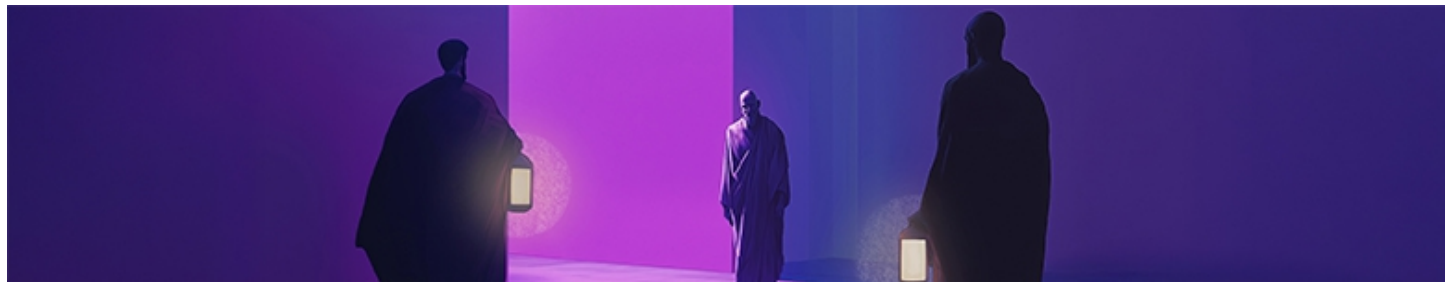
St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St. Kevin's, Bangalow

To be human is to be blessed.

10th August, 2025
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, C.



This week we hear Jesus offer a stinging warning. Be vigilant! Live your life like servants awaiting the return of their master! But *do not be afraid*, he says, *for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom*.

In the midst of it, Jesus repeats a word three times. Did you catch it? It is also in the responsorial psalm. The word is **blessed**. You could say *blessed* is one of Jesus' favourite words. In his great charter for the definitive way to be human, the Sermon on the Mount, he awards the status of *blessed* to those who don't appear very *blessed* at all (the persecuted, the peacemakers, the meek, the mourning, the poor in spirit...).

In Catholic life *blessed* is probably most often repeated in the Hail Mary: '*blessed art thou among women...*' Priests *bless* the people with the sign of the cross. Parents *bless* their child when she is sick or when dropping her off at school. When someone sneezes, people say, '*God bless you!*' or just '*Bless you!*' What are we saying when we say *blessed*? More importantly, what was Jesus saying when he did?

We've established that *blessed* is everywhere in our spiritual and ordinary lives and that the same was true for Jesus himself. The word, quite literally, goes back to the very beginning. On the first pages of Scripture, in Genesis, God creates the world by separating light from darkness, water from land, and so on. You are probably not surprised that our word is there.

(Continued on back page)

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

*"Happy the people the Lord
has chosen to be his own."*

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS - Wisdom 18:6-9; Ps 32; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

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

The Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

Friday 15th August, 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) **2nd 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

MASS OF ANOINTING

**Friday 9.30am
22nd August, 2025**

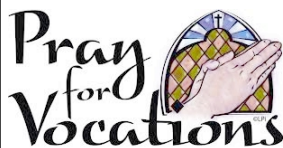
St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay



VOCATION MINISTRY:

Our diocese has two young men attending a discernment weekend August 8 -10, for those discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood.

Please keep them in your prayers.



If you are wondering if God is calling you to priesthood, diaconate or religious life please contact the Director of Vocations (02) 6681 1048 or vocations@lismore.catholic.org.au

MARIST HOUSE OF LIGHT

A house of prayer in the heart of the Northern Rivers, Lismore NSW.



Are you interested in nurturing your spiritual life? The recently renovated **Marist House of Light** at **8 Keen Street, Lismore**, offers reflection mornings, personal retreats, and spiritual direction.

Br Bill Tarrant and Br Bill Sullivan, both accredited Spiritual Directors, are available to accompany you on your journey of faith and renewal.

*For enquiries and bookings phone: 0438 689 137 or
email: maristhouseoflight@gmail.com
See flyers at the entrance to the Church.*

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

**17th August,
2025
20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time.**

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay
6pm
Saturday 16/08/25**

**St Kevin's
Bangalow
9.30am
Sunday 17/08/25**

LECTOR/S

Lorraine
Atwell

Trisha
Bleakley

MINISTER OF
COMMUNION

Mary
Dynan

NEXT WEEK:

(20th Sunday, Year C)

Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10; Psalm 39; Hebrews 12:1-4;
Luke 12:49-53

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Terry Bible, Margaret Hargraves (nee McGettigan), Eris Hackett, Paul Campton, Richard De Leede, 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

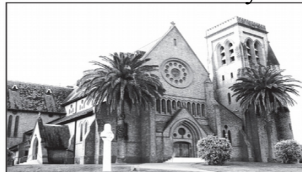
Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Hazel O'Meara, Vince Boyle, 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,

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

Maria C.M., Rhonda Noonan, Patricia Higgins, Louise Banno, 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.)



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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.



ST FINBARR'S
Catholic Primary School

This Week at St Finbarr's

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

In 2025, for only the third time, the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run is circumnavigating the entire continent of Australia. It started in Canberra on 24 April, running clockwise to visit all capital cities, with millions of footsteps through forests, across deserts, along beaches, highways and byways, visiting hundreds of schools, community groups, civic leaders and events, returning to Canberra on 13 August. We were privileged to have the Peace Run visit St Finbarr's last Friday just in time for our school assembly. Year Five students shared their thoughts on 'Peace' and Kinders displayed their beautiful artwork. This was such a special gathering as the visitors spoke of their journey, sang a beautiful song to the children then led them all onto the school oval as they passed the torch flame from student to student. Alaska from Kinder was selected from the audience to hold the torch and accept the certificate and plaque. The event had an obvious positive impact on our students who have vowed to continue to spread the message of peace through living our school vision of 'Loving like Jesus, Growing together as Friends and Learning for Life'.

Tim Bleakley

Principal

Loving, Growing, Learning for Life.

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.

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.



Saint of the Week

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. Mary is seen as the first disciple of Jesus and a model for all disciples; it is fitting that she receive the gift of discipleship first of all. Belief in the Assumption of Mary had become widespread by the end of the seventh century and was eventually defined in an infallible statement by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

Feast Day: 15 Aug.



A Jubilee Year, or Holy Year, is traditionally proclaimed every 25 years as a time of grace, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal. It invites the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, seek repentance, forgive others, and deepen their relationship with God.

Rooted in the Hebrew tradition, Jubilees were celebrated every 50 years, marking the freeing of slaves and forgiveness of debts, as described in Leviticus. The first Christian Jubilee was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300, and since then, each Jubilee has been an opportunity for the faithful to experience God's mercy and receive a plenary indulgence.

The 2025 Jubilee, themed "**Pilgrims of Hope**," begins on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and officially concludes in Rome on 6 January 2026, the feast of the Epiphany. The faithful are encouraged to embrace this Holy Year by participating in pilgrimages, prayer, eucharistic Adoration, and acts of repentance and charity, drawing closer to the limitless mercy of God.



(Continued from front page)

It appears precisely three times. (God loves that number; He also likes *seven*, which is three doubled + one, with the one signifying abundance, surplus, *blessing*, just as three is two + one, surplus, *blessing*...) God *blesses* the birds and fish on day five and humanity on day six: so creatures of the sky, the sea, and the land are *blessed*. But what are they *blessed* with?

The story is plain: *fruitfulness, abundance*, the capacity to *fill* the creation with *life*. Humans, who are a kind of a unifying bridge joining the sky and sea on the land, are given a special *blessing* on top of abundance and life: they are blessed with *rule* or *dominion*. On day six, humans are themselves presented as a +, a more, a teeming abundance beyond what God has already created.

Sky, sea, and finally, those peculiar *land* creatures are *blessed* with the energies of abundance, life, and then rule. The final act of *blessing* occurs on the seventh day, when God *rests* from his work. The creation tale establishes the meaning of our word for the entire story to follow that culminates in Jesus. *Blessed* means to be *given* a share in God's power of abundance, life, and ultimately rule.

And that is what Jesus offers us. It is what *rest* signifies in Genesis and what *Kingdom* means in the gospel. *Blessed* means to be truly, fully and definitively human, in accord with God's original and final purpose.

W Chris Hackett @ Majellan Media 2025



Jubilee 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,

may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

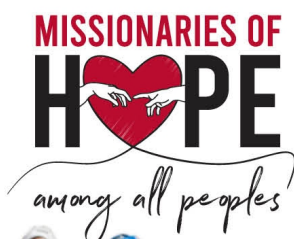
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen



We would like to thank you for your generosity supporting the Church in Zambia and missionaries like Sr Jane and Kayula.

Thanks to your kindness, women like Sharon will have the skills to provide for their families, and mothers like Grace can give birth with dignity. Your gift will also support a variety of Church programs around the world.

To learn more about the impact your support is making, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work. Here, you can also sign up to our regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at catholicmission.org.au/mission. Your action will make a profound change on people's lives.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mission



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