



# The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St. Kevin's, Bangalow

## First Holy Communion: 'Our share in His Cross.'

14<sup>th</sup> September, 2025  
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



This week's feast is an ancient one, known as The Triumph (or The Exaltation) of the Cross. Legend has it that on this date, September 14 in 330, St Helena, a Christian, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, discovered "the true cross" on which Jesus had died in Jerusalem.

Over the centuries, the cross has become the universal symbol of our Christian faith. Some people wear it around their necks. Many have a crucifix at home. A cross hangs in every Catholic Church. We venerate the cross during the liturgy on Good Friday. And every day we, like our forebears who have gone before us in the Faith, begin and end our prayers, including the celebration of the Mass, making the Sign of the Cross while we say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

In this one simple gesture and prayer, the Sign of the Cross, we express the two great mysteries that lie at the very heart of our faith as Christians: God is Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the One God – and God revealed his great mercy and steadfast love for us in Jesus' death on a cross, for "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16).

We can easily forget how shameful and humiliating death by crucifixion was. In the Roman Empire crucifixion was an oft-used form of execution that was calculated to instil fear and dread in the people and to discourage any would-be political agitators or subversives.

(Continued on back page)

### Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

### Gospel Acclamation.

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*"The Lord gave them bread from heaven."*

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

TODAY'S READINGS – Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 77, Cor 11:23-26, John 21:1-14.

**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

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

#### 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

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**

9.30am St Finbarr's, Byron Bay

*Feast Day: St Januarius*

### WEEKEND MASSES

**BYRON BAY**

**Saturday 6pm**

St Finbarr's Church

50 Tennyson St

Byron Bay

**BANGALOW**

**Sunday 9.30am**

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:**

**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*



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

A very big thank you  
to all those involved in making the day so special for  
the children celebrating their First Holy Communion.

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



- For a "*Cuppa*" after 9.30am Mass  
**TODAY, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2025.**

*All Invited!*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE RECENTLY MARRIED:



Carmen De Jong and Alexander Woloszyn  
Davinia Cobo and Jose Bermudez

### 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.

**21st  
September  
2025**  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time.

**St Finbarr's  
Byron Bay**  
**6pm**  
Saturday 13/09/25

**St Kevin's  
Bangalow**  
**9.30am**  
Sunday 14/09/25

LECTOR/S

Ann  
McCabe

Susie  
Douglas

MINISTER OF  
COMMUNION

Mary  
Dynan

**NEXT WEEK: (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ord Time)**  
Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 112; 1 Timothy 2:1-8;  
Luke 16:1-13

### Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Peter Grant, Patricia Tiernan, 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  
Ehlfeldt MSC, Carole Drury, *Valma Burke*,  
*Pope Francis*, Peter Lemon, Eddie Phillips,  
Jeanne Sjoberg, Joan Baker, Bill Mitchell, Ann  
Cash-Huish, Barbara & Mark Smith,

### Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Josephine Farrugia, Fr Vince Doyle, 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

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

Rhonda Noonan, 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](http://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.



## This Week at St Finbarr's

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

Recently, our Assistant Principal Mission, Sonya Piccoli completed an appraisal after serving in this important role at St Finbarr's for 4 years. There was overwhelming support and acknowledgement of Sonya's organisational skills and dedication to the position.

**Tim Bleakley**

Principal

*Loving, Growing, Learning for Life.*



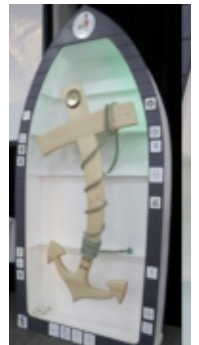
### TRADITION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025.

The Church's Jubilee tradition dates back to the year 1300, when Pope Boniface VIII declared the first Holy Year. Originally held once every 100 years, Jubilees are now celebrated every 25 years as special times of renewal, pilgrimage, and grace.

As part of this Jubilee year, a symbolic pilgrimage is taking place through The Good Ship 'Hope' – a beautifully crafted boat inspired by the official Jubilee logo. Designed and built by our talented Newman College furniture teacher, Peter Hayes, the vessel has journeyed across the Lismore Diocese, beginning at Camden Haven Catholic Parish and concluding at St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore, presently on display at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.

### HOSTING THE JUBILEE OF HOPE – BOAT.

Through the initiative of Fr. Paul Gooley, PP Port Macquarie, and with the Bishops blessing, a boat design has been used to symbolically represent the rivers, waterways and ocean in which many of our parishes exist aligning with the international symbol for this year's Jubilee of Hope. St Finbarr's Catholic Primary School enjoyed an exciting liturgy in the presence of the *Jubilee Boat of Hope* last Wednesday morning. The Boat, through its journey south in the Diocese, is now on display at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay until it 'sails' to Ballina Parish on Monday 15 September.



The 2025 Jubilee is centred on the theme "*Pilgrims of Hope*." As His Holiness Pope Francis so beautifully expressed it: "*We must fan the flame of hope that has been given 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.*" During the Jubilee Year, the Pope Francis invited every one of us to embark on a pilgrimage of hope, so that, "*Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it.*"

### RCIA and RRFC Network

The Diocese of Lismore is planning to establish a network for those who work in the ministry of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) for unbaptised people and RRFC (Rite of Receiving Full Communion in the Catholic Faith) for Christians entering into full communion with the Catholic Church.

The network will meet four times per year via Zoom for a two-hour session. Meetings will include formation for leaders and opportunities for participants to share ideas and practices.

Our purpose is to build up the capacity of our parishes for this important ministry of mission and evangelisation.

This initiative is supported by Bishop Greg. The first meeting will be Tues 7 Oct 7-8pm. Please register, with your name and parish, to receive a zoom link via email to Deacon Anthony Gooley. [agooley@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:agooley@lismore.catholic.org.au)



### DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

Interest Rate—3.65%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) or contact us on 1800 802 516



*(Continued from front page)*

As St Paul writes, the cross was a scandal, a stumbling block, to the Jews and a folly, sheer foolishness, to the Greeks. No wonder that it was about three centuries before the symbol of the cross was represented in Christian art, life and worship, so shameful a death it was. And yet, as St Paul insists: *"We preach Christ crucified."*

The second reading is one of the most important of St Paul's writings. He writes that Christ, though enjoying a divine status, *"emptied himself,"* freely taking *"the form of a slave,"* humbling himself, even to death on a cross. *"Therefore, God highly exalted him"* so that all should confess that *"Jesus Christ is Lord."* His crucifixion was not his defeat or failure but rather his victory and triumph.

St Paul exhorts his readers, including us: *"let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."* St John captures succinctly what this *"mind of Christ Jesus"* involves: *"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another"* (1 Jn 4:11).

When we make the Sign of the Cross, we also symbolise the cross that is ours to carry in our own lives, mindful at the same time of the resurrection and life of the world to come that Jesus' victory wrought for each one of us. May the cross be our comfort in times of suffering, our refuge in times of trouble, and our safeguard on life's journey.

Anne Hunt @ Majellan Media 2025

## The Catholic Weekly

**Some of the stories in this week's edition are:**

- Camino of St Joseph draws 1,200 men in faith, fellowship.
- Joy from Sydney to Rome as Acutis, Frassati are canonised.
- Bullying rapid review a good first step, say experts.
- September's Walk for Life and rally will promote sanctity of life.
- Disciple Diaries faith series wins one of three awards for TCW.
- Monica Doumit: The secrecy built into our VAD regime.



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/>**

## VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

As we align with the Lismore Diocese Safeguarding Policies, volunteers will have recently received application forms. Thank you to everyone for completing and returning them.

***\*Please keep an eye on the bulletin for future updates and training opportunities.***

We truly appreciate the ongoing support of our parish volunteers, as safeguarding remains a core value in our Diocese. Together, we help ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all parishioners and visitors.



### 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**