



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St. Kevin's, Bangalow

The wealth that matters.

21st September, 2025
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C



We often draw a careful line between our spiritual lives and the economic and political realities of everyday existence—as if God somehow stops paying attention when we open our laptops or balance our budgets. But Jesus, like the prophet Amos before him, finds the divine in spreadsheets and business dealings, in the messy intersection of faith and finance.

In this week's readings, we find ourselves once again in the company of an accomplished raconteur, listening to tales that are both wonderfully ordinary and mysteriously profound.

Jesus' parable of the dishonest steward is a perfect example of his storytelling genius. Here's a tale that would make any modern HR department break out in a cold sweat—a story about a manager who, facing termination, essentially cooks the books to secure his future. Yet somehow, this ethically questionable character becomes the hero of Jesus' parable.

Jesus doesn't traffic in simple moral platitudes. His stories make us wrestle with complexity, discovering that the kingdom of God operates by different rules than our world. The dishonest steward's cleverness becomes a metaphor for the kind of creative urgency we should bring to our spiritual lives.

Amos understood this centuries earlier, railing against merchants who trampled the poor and made "*the ephah [the measure or weight] small and the shekel [the money or payment] great*"—an ancient form of "*shrinkflation*" that sounds remarkably familiar.

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Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

"Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor."

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS – Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 112; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13

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 26th September, 2025

9.30am St Finbarr's, Byron Bay

Feast Day: Sts Cosmas & Damian

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

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:

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

JOIN THE ST FINBARR'S VINNIES CONFERENCE.

Give back to your community by becoming a Vinnies Member today.

In Byron Bay, on Tuesday and Thursday, we provide support with food clothing, financial aid and other assistance, companionship and connection, referrals onto local services, raising funds and advocating for social justice issues.

Contact Ian on 0403 178 451,
Email: lismore.application@vinnies.org.au
or call 6621 5835.



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.



Aid to the Church in Need
a Catholic charity under the guidance of the Holy Father
Keeping the Faith Alive

ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY WEEKLY MASSES



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

**28th
September
2025**
26th 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

Suzanne
Wallington

Trisha
Bleakley

MINISTER OF
COMMUNION

Mary
Dynan

NEXT WEEK:

(26th Sunday Ord Time)

Amos 6:1, 4-7; Psalm 145; 1 Timothy 6:11-16;
Luke 16:19-31

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 Ehlefeldt 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 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; 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.

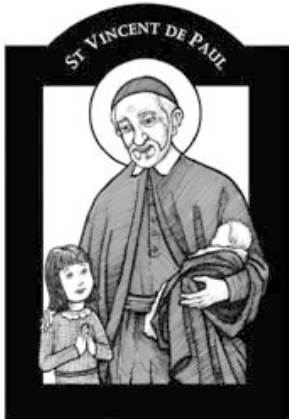
Our traditional Fathers Day breakfast and liturgy took place on the school grounds in full spring sunshine. This gathering highlighted the wonderful parent community we have here at school. St Finbarr's staff cooked and prepared the breakfast while coffee completed the special menu for the morning. Student photos with their Dads or a significant family member were taken throughout the morning with many classes making special gifts to send home. Overall, a fantastic celebration and a reminder of our focus on ensuring every visitor to St Finbarr's feels welcome and special.

Tim Bleakley

Principal

Loving, Growing, Learning for Life.

Saint of the Week - Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest



St Vincent de Paul was born to a French peasant family in 1580. He was a highly intelligent youth and was educated by the Franciscans before being ordained at the age of 20. In 1605 he was captured by Turkish pirates who sold him into slavery, but won his freedom after he converted one of his masters to Christianity. After returning to France he served as a parish priest near Paris and began to establish charitable organisations that helped the poor, nursed the sick, and found work for the unemployed. Vincent founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity with Louise de Marillac and instituted the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, also known as the Lazarists. Today the Society of St Vincent de Paul, named in his memory, provides relief to people in need across the world. (*Feast Day – 27 September*)

2025 JUBILEE – 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'.

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.*"



Caritas Australia – Season of Creation

The Season of Creation's call for *Peace with Creation* aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges. This Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Caritas Australia is inviting parishes to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by:

- signing the **Turn Debt into Hope** petition – caritas.org.au/debt
- committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a **Catholic Earthcare Household** - caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/



DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND

Interest Rate—3.65%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516



(Continued from front page)

The prophet saw clearly that there's no separating our relationship with God from our relationship with money, power, and each other. God, it seems, is indeed in the details of everyday life. The olive oil debts, the wheat measures, the awkward conversations between masters and servants—these aren't just narrative props. They're the very fabric of existence where the sacred and secular meet.

This brings us to the question of true wealth. The steward in Jesus' parable understands something profound: relationships matter more than balance sheets. When he reduces the debts, he's investing in human connections that will outlast his employment. The "*friends*" he makes through his generosity become his true treasure.

Paul's letter to Timothy echoes this theme—the love of money is the root of evil. Notice he doesn't say money itself is evil, just our relationship with it. True wealth isn't measured in dollars but in faithfulness, gentleness, and godliness. It is found in choosing relationships over riches, recognising that we are all stewards of the "*things*" that have been gifted to us by fate or fortune.

Jesus' storytelling continues to surprise us. Two thousand years later, we're still debating the finer points of the dishonest steward's actions, still discovering new layers of meaning in these ancient tales. That's the mark of a master storyteller—creating stories that remain alive, that continue to provoke and inspire long after the original audience has gone home.

In our own lives, we are called to be both storytellers and characters in the ongoing narrative of faith, finding God in the ordinary details and choosing the kind of wealth that truly matters.

Ian J Elmer @ Majellan Media 2025

2025 - PUBLIC ROSARY

JOIN US FOR A NATION-WIDE ROSARY CHAIN.

This Saturday 11th October at 11am

BEACHFRONT PARK OPPOSITE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH, LENNOX HEAD.

We will pray for Peace in the World.

ALL WELCOME

Shared Lunch will follow the Rosary Crusade.

(Shared "*treat*" plate appreciated.)

Bring your Rosaries and bring a fold-up chair if needed, umbrella for sun or rain.

Enquiries: Marie 0409 887 677

Diocesan Pastoral Council – From Bishop Greg

Nomination and Expression of
Interest Form - Diocesan Pastoral
Council



The Council of Priests and I have decided that it is time to re-establish the Diocesan Pastoral Council in the hope of drawing on the many talents in the Diocese. A Diocesan Pastoral Council will be in keeping with the synodal process of renewal, which began a few years ago. The QR code that links to the expression of interest/nomination form is attached for your assistance.

Further details can be found on the noticeboard at the entrance to the Church.

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