



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St. Kevin's, Bangalow

Preparing the way.

7th December, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "*We have Abraham for our father*," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

*"Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever."*

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS – Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Preparing the way.

When we hear the words, 'a voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord ...', what do we hear? A young man wondered whether he was being called to be a priest. But when have we heard a call to prepare a way for the Lord?

In our wilderness have we heard a voice calling us to a change of heart? A woman heard such a voice when she spoke of her grief in a small group. A friend's response enabled her 'to find release from the doubts and fears and self-concern that had imprisoned me.' That's the hope and the joy offered to us in Advent, in the person of the one who is to come.

(Continued on back page)

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)

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

**14 December
2025**
3rd Sunday of
Advent, Year A

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay**
6pm
Saturday 13/12/25

**St Kevin's
Bangalow**
9.30am
Sunday 14/12/25

LECTOR/S

Ann
McCabe

Jan
Witney

MINISTER OF
COMMUNION

Michael
Harris

NEXT WEEK: (3rd Sunday of Advent)
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Ps 145; James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - FATHER DAVID GILBEY – PARISH PRIEST

Parish Office 50 Tennyson St, (PO Box 1816) Byron Bay NSW 2481 **Churches** St Finbarr's 50 Tennyson St, Byron Bay
St Kevin's Deacon Street, Bangalow

Office Hours Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am – 2pm

Phone: (02) 6685 6260

Email: stfins@bigpond.com

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>



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH BANGALOW/BYRON BAY WEEKLY MASSES

St Finbarr's, Byron Bay
9.30am Wednesday
6.00pm Saturday

St Kevin's, Bangalow
9.30am Sunday



ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY WEEKLY MASSES

**OLOL
Brunswick Heads**
5.30pm Thursday

**St John's
Mullumbimby**
8am Sunday

CUPPA AFTER MASS AT BYRON BAY - PLEASE JOIN US



- at St Finbarr's Church for a "Cuppa" after
6pm Mass **TONIGHT.**

All Invited!

CUPPA AFTER MASS AT BANGALOW - PLEASE JOIN US



- at St Kevin's Church for a "Cuppa" after
9.30am Mass **on Sunday 14 December.**
Please bring a plate to share.

All Invited!

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Magaret Mazzer, Dale O'Leary, Warwick Smith, Rhys Thomas, Lawrence Farrugia, Fr Frank Mulcahy, 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

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Eileen Gilbey, Mark Stickens, Frances Buckley, Warren Meanwell, Carmel Apps, Faith Denholm, Joan Hurley, Terry Potts, Vlad Sezemsky, Hazel Holland, Josephine Farrugia, Fr Vince Doyle, Hazel O'Meara, Vince Boyle, Stephen Buckley, Carmel McLean, Teresa Pezzutti, May Higgins, Ron Maher, Roy Putt.

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

Frances Raisch, Lee Rogers, The Conroy family, Angeles and Karla Zapala, Rhonda Noonan, 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.)



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER

Priest: May your hearts be filled with God's love towards all people as you consider the life of sacrifice and encouragement of John the Baptist.

All: Thanks be to God

Priest: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we light the Candle of **Love** and remember John the Baptist. Let us pray.

All: Lord God, help us to follow the example of your servant John the Baptist that we would be witnesses and spread the good news of your love.

We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus our Saviour, the babe of Bethlehem. Amen



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH BYRON BAY/ BANGALOW

Christmas Eve – 24 December

St Kevin's 5.30pm

Bangalow

St Finbarr's 8pm

Byron Bay



Christmas Day – 25 December

St Finbarr's 7.30am

Byron Bay

St Kevin's 9.30am

Bangalow

ST. JOHN'S PARISH, BRUNSWICK VALLEY

Christmas Eve – 24 December

Our Lady of Lourdes 5.30pm

Brunswick Heads

St John's 7pm

Mullumbimby

Christmas Day - 25 December

St John's 8am

Mullumbimby



**Christmas Clean-Up
St Kevin's, Bangalow
Saturday 20 December,
9.00am**



All parishioners are warmly invited to lend a hand as we prepare St Kevin's Church for Christmas.

Please bring cobweb removers, dusters, furniture polish, rags, and buckets.

**Many hands make light work –
we'd love to
see you there!**



St Vincent de Paul Society CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Every day as we interview members of our community, we see how difficult it is for them experiencing disadvantage, poverty, loneliness and homelessness. We see more women and families without a house to live in. They struggle in cars, tents and vans, or often on the street. Financial stress causes family break ups. Families flee domestic violence. Young men and women struggle with mental illness and no family support.

As we enter this Advent, Celebration, we invite you to commit to helping us give assistance and hope to the many people who come to us.

This year the Conference be giving gift cards to families instead of the traditional hampers. They are then able to select the food and presents most suitable for their families.

During Advent, we invite you to donate cash or enter your card details using the Appeal. Envelopes available at the entrance of the church. **All donations are added to our Conferences budget and will be only used to directly support locals.** Place Envelopes in the Church Collection or Poor Box.

If you donate online at www.vinnies.org.au, enter 43 449 to give to our local budget.





(Continued from front page)

John the Baptist prepares a way for him, and he reveals how we might do this by calling us to repent, to a change of heart, so the kingdom of heaven might be made real in our lives. When the people were baptised by him, they '*confessed their sins*', naming them so they might be forgiven, and their relationship with God and one another, might be restored. These are the fruits of repentance. We can't simply presume like the religious leaders do in the gospel that all is well because we're in good standing with God, as John calls them out for their complacency.

Clearly, he's an agent of change, and as the young man and the grieving woman instinctively understood, it's decision time, because John points to the coming one's role as judge at the end of time. He will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire – a baptism of fire – which a woman experienced a few years ago when a bushfire destroyed her home. She lost everything and slowly came to realise it was an opportunity to do things differently this time, with God at the centre of her life.

She came to understand this judgement is not something to be afraid of, for when it comes it will be the moment when all is revealed, the moment of our liberation, when we will be '*set free to love*'. The only question is, do we long for this transformation or cling to what we've known? It's not quite what John had in mind, but it is the hope and joy of Advent; that the Lord's judgment will see the birth of a community of hope, where we might experience the joy of being with one another, both now and forever.

This community is at the heart of the first and second readings. Isaiah speaks of a new life for God's people on returning from exile – renewed relationship with one another and all creation. While Paul speaks of hope in the scriptures and following the example of Christ and our forebears in faith, the building up of a community where we might all give glory to God. In this way we '*prepare a way for the Lord*': it's what we're called to do.

Damian Coleridge @ Majellan Media 2025

ADORATION AT ST FINBARR'S CHURCH, BYRON BAY

You are warmly invited to join us at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay, during Advent.

- ***Wednesday*** - 10 December, 2025
- Friday - 19 December, 2025

Come and spend quiet time with the Lord in prayer and reflection.

8:30am – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  **9:00am – Rosary**  **9:30am – Mass**

All Welcome!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Catholic feast day on 8th December that celebrates Mary's conception free from original sin. This holy day honours her as the Mother of God and is a time for reflection on her purity and role in salvation, as declared a dogma in 1854 by Pope Pius IX. The feast occurs during the season of Advent and is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics.



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



Interest Rate – 3.40%

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