



The Living Spirit



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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay

St. Kevin's, Bangalow

The true light.

25th January, 2026
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

***"The Lord is my light
and my salvation."***

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS – Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

The true light.

Galilee was no one's idea of a place that could launch a 'world changing movement'. Galilee's history was not glorious. The readings today refer to it as the "land of Naphtali", which was one of the breakaway tribes of the Jewish people that formed the northern kingdom of Israel.

According to the Old Testament, these tribes did not remain faithful to God, committing idolatry and gross injustices. The northern kingdom was later invaded and its people taken captive by the Assyrian empire. The area around the Sea of Galilee remained largely deserted for centuries.

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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

**1st February
2026**
4th Sunday in
Ordinary Time.
Year A

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay**
6pm
Saturday
31/01/2026

**St Kevin's
Bangalow**
9.30am
Sunday
01/02//2026

LECTOR/S

Suzanne
Wallington

June
Zentveld

MINISTER OF
COMMUNION

Tony
McCabe

NEXT WEEK: (4th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A)
Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Cor 1:26-31,
Matthew 5:12

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Joanne Palmer (nee Baker), Magaret Mazzer, Dale O'Leary, Adam Roever, 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

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Agnes Finlay, Manuel Palafox Snr, Joan Baker, Dorothy Tickle, Sr Kathleen McGettigan RSJ, Margaret McGettigan, Kevin Collins, Kevin Scanlon, Kate Stirling, Eileen Gilbey, Mark Stickens, Frances Buckley, Warren Meanwell, Carmel Apps, Faith Denholm, Joan Hurley, Terry Potts, Vlad Sezemsky, Hazel Holland

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

David Biddulph, 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.)



God Bless
Australia

God, Bless Australia,
Guard our people.
Guide our leaders.
and give us peace;
For Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.



Pray for the Deceased Priests of the Diocese of Lismore.

James Duffy, William Byrne, Patrick Kiely, John Dalton, John Patrick Curran, +Norman Thomas Gilroy Card. Archbishop of Sydney, John Henry Fitzpatrick, George C Barry, Synan McDonnell, Alexander Fillodeau, Cyril Cummins



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH BANGALOW/BYRON BAY WEEKLY MASSES

**St Finbarr's,
Byron Bay**

9.30am Friday
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**

8.00am Sunday

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>



2026 HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Term 1 – Year 4.

Parent Meeting: St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay - 6pm

Sacrament: St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay - 6pm – 7pm

Wednesday 25th February

Tuesday 24th March & Wednesday 25th March

CONFIRMATION: Term 2 – Year 3.

Parent Meeting: St Finbarr's Church - 6.00pm

Wednesday 10th June

Masses:

- Enrolment Ceremony
- The Lord's Prayer
- Blessing & Practice for Confirmation at St Finbarr's Church

- Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th June
- Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st June
- Saturday 27th June

Sacrament: St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay - 6.00pm

Tuesday 30th June



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Term 3 – Year 4.

Parent Meeting: St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay – 6.00pm

Wednesday 12th August

Masses:

- Enrolment Ceremony
- Poster Presentation
- Candle Ceremony
- Blessing & Practice after Mass at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay

- Saturday/Sunday 22nd - 23rd August
- Saturday/Sunday 29th - 30th August
- Saturday/Sunday 5th - 6th September
- Saturday 12th September

Sacrament: St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay – 6pm

Saturday 19th September

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

Saint/s of the Week



Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church.

St Thomas Aquinas was born in c.1225 and was one of the many children of the Count of Aquino. He was educated by Benedictine Monks, but eventually joined the mendicant Dominican friars in 1244, much to the shock and anger of his family. His brothers kidnapped and imprisoned Thomas in an attempt to change his mind, but after a year he was released. He went on to study under St Albert the Great and took a degree of master in theology. He devoted his life to teaching, preaching and especially writing; his philosophical and theological works have become integral to the thinking of the church. He experienced a divine revelation which led him to abandon his writings, claiming that they were but straw in the wind when compared to the reality of the divine glory. He died four months later due to poor health. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1567. *(Feast Day – 28 January)*

St John Bosco, Priest.

St John Bosco was the youngest son of a peasant farmer in the town of Turin, Northern Italy. Soon after his ordination in 1841 he began his life's work of educating poor and orphaned children. He had an extraordinary gift for handling difficult youths without punishment, but with gentle and effective firmness. Inspired by St Francis de Sales, Don Bosco called his helpers "Salesians", who were formally recognised by the church in 1874. *(Feast Day – 31 January)*



Support the Community

IN TIMOR-LESTE

GIVE TODAY catholicmission.org.au/faith



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By the time of Jesus, Galilee had been repopulated by Jewish people who had formed several prosperous towns and villages. Although its population was fervently Jewish, their countrymen in Judea and around Jerusalem regarded Galileans as barely qualifying as Jewish, with their blended ethnic heritage and stereotypes about them being lax in religious practice.

They had identifiable accents and would have been regarded by Judeans as their less-sophisticated country cousins. Throughout the Gospels the Judeans repeatedly dismiss Jesus and his disciples when they learn they are from Galilee.

These are people today's readings describe as *"people who walked in darkness"*, and with history the Scriptures depict as *'degraded by God'*. But it is to the people of Galilee, *"on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen."*

Jesus' ministry in Galilee is a fitting example of how God ministers first to the lowly and humble and chooses them to do wonderful things for him. The people of Galilee are the first to hear the good news that *"the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* Their people are chosen to be disciples of Israel's promised Messiah and messengers of God to the ends of the earth. And it is to the Galileans that Jesus first travels *"teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people."* Today's gospel brings us hope for our own land, currently assailed by secularism and our own history of injustices. Our country could also be a spark for God's plan of salvation for the entire world. What we learn is that God is looking to bring the kingdom of heaven to people who have the humility and willingness to follow him.

If the kingdom of heaven is to come through us, then it must start with the two messages that Jesus' preaches in the gospel: *"Repent"* and *"Come after me."* Jesus calls the people of Galilee, and us today, to leave the darkness of our past sins behind us and follow him, the one true light.

May we all pray that we, a people who walk in darkness, see the true light of Christ and become *"fishers of men"* for him to the ends of the earth. May every corner of our country know Jesus' teachings, his healing and his love for people.

Joseph Doyle @ Majellan Media 2026

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

The Kids Helpline is a free 24 hour telephone counselling service for children and young people aged between 5 and 25.



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