

## Initiation into the Catholic Church

The Rite of Christian Initiation is celebrated with the reception of three sacraments. These are:

### Baptism

### Confirmation

### First Holy Communion

The Second Vatican Council reminded the church that these three sacraments were intrinsically connected.

#### First Reconciliation

During Lenten Season as we prepare to celebrate the Easter mysteries.

**Tue24/Wed 25 March 2026**



#### Confirmation

The Bishop will celebrate on  
**Tue. 30 June 2026**



#### First Holy Communion

**Saturday,  
19 September 2026**



## 2026 Sacramental Program

### First Reconciliation: Term 1 Year 4.

Wed. 25 Feb.: Parent Meeting - 6.00pm at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.  
Sacrament 6pm -7pm at St Finbarr's Church on Tue/Wed: 24 - 25 March.

### Confirmation: Term 2 Year 3.

Wed: 10 June: Parent meeting - 6.00pm at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.

#### Masses:

Sat./Sun. 13-14 June: Enrolment Ceremony.  
Sat./Sun. 20-21 June: Receive the Lord's Prayer.  
Sat. 27 June: Blessing and Practice for Confirmation at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.  
**Tue. 30 June: Sacrament of Confirmation.**  
6pm at St Finbarr's Church.

### First Holy Communion: Term 3 Year 4.

Wed: 12 Aug.: Parent Meeting - 6.00pm at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.

#### Masses:

Sat/Sun: 22-23 Aug.: Enrolment Ceremony.  
Sat/Sun: 29-30 Aug.: Poster Presentation.  
Sat/Sun: 5-6 Sept.: Candles around Altar.  
Sat. 12 Sept.: Blessing + Practice after Mass in St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.  
**Saturday. 19 Sept. Sacrament of First Holy Communion, 6.00pm at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.**

Holy Spirit Parish,  
Bangalow and  
Byron Bay

## Sacramental Program 2026



*Jews came that we  
may have life and  
have it to the full.*

*John 10:10*

## Holy Spirit Parish Bangalow/Byron Bay.

PO Box 1816  
Byron Bay 2481

Phone 6685 6260

Email: [sffins@bigpond.com](mailto:sffins@bigpond.com)

Web: <https://byronbayparish.org.au>



## Message from Fr. David Gilbey, Parish Priest.

Dear Parents,

The parish rejoices with you in the important spiritual events in the life of your child in the coming year. We are here to assist you and your child's teacher, in preparing and celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Your Family is a small Christian community often described as '*the domestic church*'. From the early Christian communities, we can identify **five essential characteristics** which were common to the families of the early church, and which would strengthen our present-day families:

1. Prayer was a regular part of the family routine.
2. Family members talked quite freely about spiritual matters.
3. There was a structure in the family which brought them together and kept them together.
4. Families would reach out together with genuine Christian love.



The Sacraments are moments that help and strengthen us on our spiritual pilgrimage through life.

5. Families would gather in solidarity with other Christian families to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays (the Lord's day).

The Gospel hasn't changed. These five points are as important today as they were 2000 years ago when the Church was developing its foundational values.

### Bishop's Changes to Sacramental Policy:

#### Lismore Diocese 2021

The Diocesan policy for the reception of the Sacraments follows:-

**Confirmation:** From 2021 for Year 3. Confirmation is a Sacrament closely linked to the Rite of Initiation that began at Baptism. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation depends upon the Bishop's Calendar.

**First Reconciliation:** From 2021 for Year 4, will be celebrated in the *Season of Lent*, Term 1. Lent is an appropriate time to celebrate this sacrament as it is the season when we are reflecting on our lives in preparation to celebrate the great central Christian event of *Easter*.

**First Holy Communion:** From 2021 for Year 4, will be celebrated for children who have made their First Reconciliation. This Sacrament is received through the great gift of Jesus in the celebration of *The Eucharist* - The Mass.

The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion complete the Rite of Christian Initiation into the faith community. Those receiving these Sacraments begin their commitment to be actively involved in the life of the Christian faith. It is a time of rejoicing for the local Christian community as we celebrate who we are as a faith community.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Candidates from other Dioceses or parishes may have received their Sacraments at different times. Please contact the school where these exceptions occur for your children. *Fr David*

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Compulsory Parent Information Night:

First Reconciliation: Wednesday 25 Feb. 2026

Confirmation: Wednesday 10 June 2026

First Holy Communion: Wednesday 12 Aug. 2026

Candidates Name

Father's full Name

Mother's full Maiden Name

Place and date of Birth

Place and date of Catholic Baptism - (attach copy)

School

Class

Home Address

Phone

Signature

Date

### Closing Dates for Registration:

Reconciliation: Wed. 25 Feb. 2026

Confirmation: Wed. 10 June 2026

First Holy Communion: Wed. 12 Aug. 2026

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

PO Box 1816

Tel. 02 6685 6260

Email: [stfins@bigpond.com](mailto:stfins@bigpond.com)

Byron Bay 2481