



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay

St. Kevin's, Bangalow



JUBILEE YEAR OF
SAINT
FRANCIS
1226-2026

Jesus shows us the way to live.

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



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

Gospel Acclamation.

***Happy the poor in Spirit;
The kingdom of heaven is theirs!***

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS – Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1: 26-31; Matt 5: 1-12

Jesus shows us the way to live.

In this liturgical year, Year A, we focus on readings from Matthew's Gospel. Matthew writes towards the end of the first century AD, for a Christian community comprised of Jewish converts. In his gospel, he strives to demonstrate for them how Jesus is the fulfillment of the faith, hopes and promises of their Jewish faith, the fulfillment of all that is in "the law and the prophets" (Mt 5:17).

The reading from Matthew's Gospel is arguably the most famous and oft-quoted of all passages in the New Testament. It is known as The Sermon on the Mount or The Beatitudes (Blessed are they ...). It is Matthew's masterful summary of Jesus' teachings.

(Continued on back page)

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



**8th February
2026**
5th Sunday in
Ordinary Time.
Year A

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay**
6pm
Saturday
07/02/2026

**St Kevin's
Bangalow**
9.30am
Sunday
08/02/2026

LECTOR/S

Ann
McCabe

Jan
Witney

**MINISTER OF
COMMUNION**

Michael
Harris

NEXT WEEK: (5th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A)
Isaiah 58:7-10; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
Matthew 5:13-16

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Anne Maginnity (Woolcott), Joanne Palmer (nee Baker), Margaret 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.

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.)



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

Wednesday 25th February

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

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

Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th June

The Lord's Prayer

Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st June

Blessing & Practice for Confirmation at St Finbarr's Church

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

Saturday/Sunday 22nd - 23rd August

Poster Presentation

Saturday/Sunday 29th - 30th August

Candle Ceremony

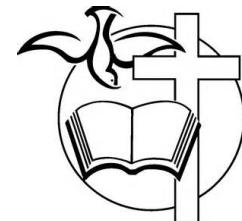
Saturday/Sunday 5th - 6th September

Blessing & Practice after Mass at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay

Saturday 12th September

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

Saturday 19th September

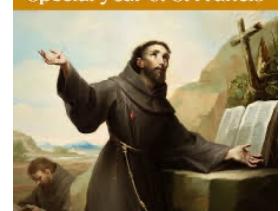


Please pray for the children of Holy Spirit Parish preparing to receive these Sacraments; that Jesus may continue to be a loving presence in their lives.

POPE LEO XIV PROCLAIMS A “SPECIAL YEAR OF ST FRANCIS”

Pope Leo XIV has declared 2026 a **“Special Year of St Francis”**, honouring the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi.

Pope Leo proclaims 2026
“Special Year of St Francis”



The jubilee year was inaugurated on January 10 with a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See, and will run until January 10, 2027.

During that time, the faithful can obtain this grace under the usual conditions – sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope – by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St Francis anywhere in the world.

The decree asked that every Christian, *“following the example of the Saint of Assisi, may himself become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace.”*

Pope Leo XIV said the example of St Francis was needed now more than ever.

“In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace,” the pope wrote.

St Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 and following a life of extravagance as a young man, he lived a life of poverty and founded the Order of Friars Minor, known more commonly as the Franciscans, as many people followed his example. His spirituality has inspired the creation of many other religious orders throughout the centuries and he remains one of the most influential saints in the life of the Church.

He died on Saturday, 3 October 1226 and was declared a saint just two years later. His body was buried in the Basilica of St Francis which was built shortly after his death.

From February 22nd to March 26th, the saint's body will be on display as the Basilica of St Francis for the first time.



(Continued from front page)

The passage follows not long after Matthew's account of Jesus' early public life and the call of the first disciples. Matthew gives a brief description of Jesus' activity: "*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*" (Mt 4:23).

In this one verse, Matthew effectively summarises the ministry of Jesus: teaching and healing. Jesus teaches with extraordinary authority, interpreting the Torah for his Jewish followers, and he heals the sick and afflicted, lifting the burden of suffering. These two dimensions of his ministry – teaching and healing – are inextricably linked and intertwined. His teaching offers healing and his healing expresses his teaching.

Matthew tells us that, on this occasion, Jesus goes up the mountain, draws his disciples to him, and sits down (as Rabbis do) and teaches them. His going up the mountain reminds us of Moses who went up the mountain of Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. This teaching is as important as that!

"*Blessed* (i.e., happy, fortunate) *are they who . . .*" Jesus repeats nine times, each time noting the God-given blessing that is the corresponding reward for those who act in that way. With these Beatitudes, Jesus effectively instructs his disciples on the nature of true holiness and the promise of true happiness. The Beatitudes reflect the merciful and compassionate character of God as revealed by Jesus (and as expressed in the Psalm). And they articulate the attitudes, values and spirit of the way of life we are to live and the way we are to act as Jesus' disciples in our care and concern for each other, our fellow human beings, and indeed all creation.

The list of Beatitudes is not like the list of the Ten Commandments, a definitive list of commands (Thou shalt not . . .). Rather, they are commendations for a way of living, of being in the world, of caring for others, especially the sick, powerless, poor and afflicted.

Our gospel reading challenges us to reflect on our attitudes and values in the light of Jesus' teaching and his compassion for all those in need of healing.

Anne Hunt @ Majellan Media 2026

**CUPPA AFTER MASS -
PLEASE JOIN US AT ST FINBARR'S,
BYRON BAY**



- for a "Cuppa" after 6.00pm Mass
Saturday 7th February, 2026.

Please bring a plate of goodies to share.

**CUPPA AFTER MASS -
PLEASE JOIN US AT ST KEVIN'S,
BANGALOW**



- for a "Cuppa" after 9.30am Mass
Sunday 8th February, 2026.

Please bring a plate of goodies to share.

Saint/s of the Week

Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Paul Miki was a Japanese Jesuit priest who was well known for his preaching. During his life the number of Christians in Japan was steadily growing. This displeased the Japanese ruler, Hideyoshi. He ordered the execution of Paul Miki and 25 of his companions. They were all crucified near Nagasaki in 1597; the first Christian martyrs in Japan. It is said that Paul Miki gave his last sermon from the cross, during which he forgave his persecutors as Christ had done. (Feast day – 6 February)



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