



The Living Spirit



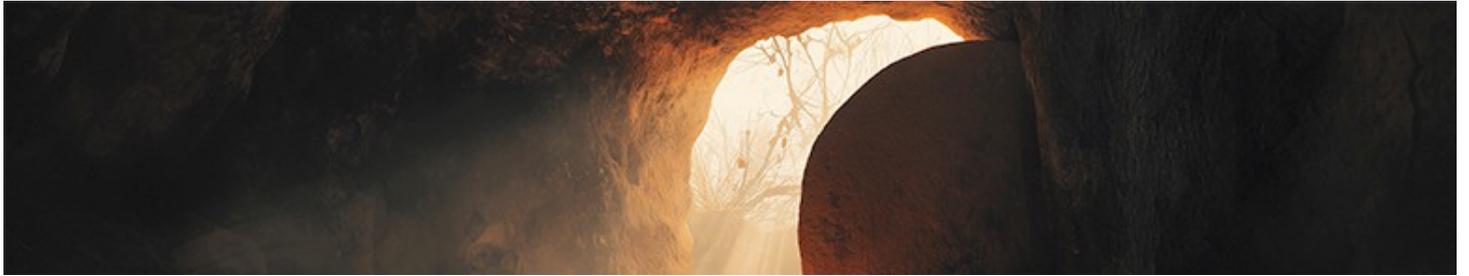
The Bulletin of Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, Byron Bay / Bangalow

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay

St. Kevin's, Bangalow

Jesus is the true messiah.

22nd March, 2026
5th Sunday of Lent, Year A



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

*With the Lord there is
mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Gospel Acclamation.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
Whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

**29th March
2026**

**Palm Sunday of
the Passion of the
Lord
Year A**

LECTOR/S

**MINISTER OF
COMMUNION**

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay**

6pm
Saturday
28/03/2026

Suzanne
Wallington

Tony
McCabe

**St Kevin's
Bangalow**

9.30am
Sunday
29/03/2026

Margaret
Reid

NEXT WEEK: (Passion Sunday Year A)
Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians
2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

George Cox, Narelle King, Sr Berenice Kerr, Ann Steengaard (Gilbey), Yvonne Myskew, Anne Maginnity (Woolcott), Joanne Palmer (nee Baker), Margaret Mazzer, Dale O'Leary, Adam Roeber, Warwick Smith, Rhys Thomas, Lawrence Farrugia, Fr Frank Mulcahy, Peter Grant, Patricia Tiernan, Terry Bible.

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

John Zentveld, Tooti Dunn, John White, Eric McGettigan, Adrian Hodson, Carmelo Farrugia, Peter Lemon, Lyle Kelly, Helen Holland, Deidre Cox, Agnes Finlay, Manuel Palafox Snr, Joan Baker, Dorothy Tickle, Sr Kathleen McGettigan RSJ, Margaret McGettigan, Kevin Collins, Kevin Scanlon, Kate Stirling, Eileen Gilbey

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

Peter Iverson, 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.)

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

ROSARY - Friday 8.50am - St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH BANGALOW/BYRON BAY WEEKLY MASSES

St Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St Kevin's, Bangalow

9.30am Friday – Anointing Mass
6.00pm Saturday

9.30am Sunday



ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY WEEKLY MASSES

LOLO
Brunswick Heads

St John's
Mullumbimby

5.30pm Thursday

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>



FIRST RECONCILIATION: Term 1 – Year 4.
Sacrament: St Finbarr’s Church, Byron Bay - 6pm – 7pm
Tuesday 24th March & Wednesday 25th March



EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA
A MOMENT TO BELIEVE



The years following the pandemic have brought real challenges.

Many have lost the irreplaceable grace of gathering as the Body of Christ and receiving him sacramentally with the worshipping community. The shift towards passive or remote participation has left gaps in understanding and devotion that the Church continues to lovingly address.

As we enter 2026, the Year of Prayer, the Church in Australia is given an opportunity to strengthen the foundations of our spiritual life. This year invites every community to renew its commitment to personal and communal prayer, preparing hearts to receive the deeper renewal that Eucharist28 seeks to foster.

The Year of Prayer is the first of our yearly themes supported by the wider Eucharist28 framework, which is offered to coordinate our communities in our eucharistic efforts to renew faith, deepen devotion, and draw people into a more intentional encounter with Christ.

Flowing from the theme “*This is My Body, Given for You*”, this renewal invites us to form disciples who carry Jesus into the world as “living tabernacles” bringing Christ to others and drawing them to his presence.

In the period ahead, additional initiatives and practical supports – including an abundance of catechetical resources produced by the Eucharist28 team – will be freely offered to help each community take up this call.



eucharist28.org

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD.

The Annunciation is the Christian event in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the Son of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It's celebrated on **the 25th of March**, marking the moment of Jesus's Incarnation and is a major feast day in Christianity.



Fifth Sunday of Lent
21- 22 March, 2026



Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



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



Jesus is the true messiah.

What an extraordinary Lenten journey it's been! Five weeks ago, we began with the temptation of Jesus. We heard that Jesus was subjected to tests and trials, just as we are, yet without sinning. The following week, the gospel called for a decision. After his transfiguration, and with the assurance of being God's beloved Son, Jesus faced a difficult choice to journey to Jerusalem. Over the next two weeks, we encountered two unique faith stories. For the Samaritan woman, faith called her to be an apostle to her village, and for the man blind from birth, faith resulted in him being driven out of his community. Today, we contemplate the reality of death, and Jesus' promise that "*whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*"

The dramatic story of Lazarus' resurrection is Jesus' last sign and miracle before his own passion and death. In a way, Lazarus' death and resurrection, points to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Both events show that Jesus is the true Messiah. However, while Lazarus was raised to a renewed earthly life, Jesus was raised forever.

Martha and Mary show the vulnerability of faith in the midst of heartache. They have faith, but they demand Jesus' physical presence, which gives rise to a sense of hopelessness when Jesus doesn't arrive in time to prevent Lazarus' death: "*If you had been here my brother would not have died.*" But the promise given is that God's gift of eternal life breaks opens the constraints of mortal life. Jesus says to Lazarus, "*Unbind him. Let him go free.*" Death is never the end of the road.

'*Hopelessness*' doesn't exist in the vocabulary of those who believe in the resurrection that Jesus promised. Jesus embraced hopelessness and became hope for the world. Fear loses its control over those who believe in the resurrection. Just as Jesus took away the stone from Lazarus' tomb, he takes away the stones of despair in our lives. Our disappointments, failures, frustrations and losses become the seedbeds of hope and new life.

To Martha, and to us, Jesus poignantly asks: "*Do you believe this?*" We must never underestimate the power of this question. It's asked of us every time we bury a loved one, and it's central in preparing for our own death. Martha's response to Jesus' question, "*Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ the Son of God,*" is an extraordinary act of faith in Jesus before his resurrection.

Jesus shows that there is a life beyond the grave, even as our mortal bodies await resurrection at the end of time. While physical life will cease, the God-life (eternal life) that has been given to us through Jesus will never cease. Jesus made eternal life possible for all of us through the gift of his life, and it's already at work in our lives.

David J Hoare CSsR @Majellan Media 2026

EASTER LITURGIES – 2026

Holy Thursday – 2 April
7.00pm at Bangalow

Good Friday – 3 April
3.00pm at Byron Bay

Easter Vigil – 4 April
(Saturday) ***6.30pm*** at Byron Bay

Easter Sunday – 5 April
9.30am Bangalow

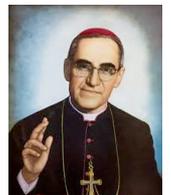


Saint of the Week

St Oscar Romero (1917–1980), canonised by Pope Francis, is a saint whose witness speaks powerfully to our times. Living amid violence and civil war in El Salvador, he courageously defended the poor and spoke against injustice.

Romero's life reflects the call to step beyond the Church walls and stand with those who suffer. His faith moved from quiet devotion to bold proclamation of the Gospel, even at great personal cost. He reminds us that true discipleship requires courage, compassion, and solidarity with the vulnerable.

Feast Day – 24 March



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

