



The Living Spirit



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



St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay

St. Kevin's, Bangalow

Gently guiding the flock.

26th April, 2026
4th Sunday of Easter, Year A



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: *'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'*

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

TODAY'S READINGS - Acts 2:14, 36-41; Ps 22; 1 Peter 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gently guiding the flock .

One of the most memorable moments in the Australian film 'Babe' comes when the sheep explain that all border collies and kelpies are wolves. The dogs chase, nip, and intimidate. They move sheep by pressure and fear. Babe, however, learns another way. He listens. He speaks gently. And, astonishingly, the sheep follow him because they recognise that he means them no harm.

In this week's gospel, Jesus insists that *"the sheep hear his voice"* and follow him because they know it (John 10:3-4). This image does not sit comfortably with Australian experience. On a real property, sheep do not respond to the grazier's voice at all. The spoken commands are for the dog. *"Come by!" "Away!" "Lie down!"* The sheep move as the dogs circle them, cutting off any avenues of escape, applying constant force, until the mob are moved through the gate. It works; but it is leadership by proxy.

(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) **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

3rd May, 2026

5th Sunday of
Easter.
Year A

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay
6.00pm**

Saturday
02/05//2026

**St Kevin's
Bangalow
9.30am**

Sunday
03/05/2026

LECTOR/S

Simone
Wallington

Margaret
Reid

MINISTER OF
COMMUNION

Tony
McCabe

NEXT WEEK: (5th Sunday of Easter, Year A)
Acts 6:1-7; Ps 32; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Robert McCabe, Louise Banno, George Cox, Narelle King, Sr Berenice Kerr, Sr Frances Kuhn, Ann Steengaard (Gilbey), Yvonne Myskew, Anne Maginnity (Woolcott), Joanne Palmer (Baker), Margaret Mazzer, Dale O'Leary, Adam Roever, Warwick Smith, Rhys Thomas, Lawrence Farrugia, Fr Frank Mulcahy

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Lloyd Gilbey, Cheryl Meanwell, Margaret Gill, Pope Francis, Bishop John Satterthwaite, Fr Kevin Ehlefeldt, Monica Brooke, Kevin McGettigan, Barry Gilbey, Stephanie Lemon, Harvey & Dawn Passfield, Max & Clare Moylan, Dianne Holley, Rita Payne, Fr Charles Kakumanu, Fr Stephen O'Donnell, Lyle Kelly

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

Carmel Kenway, Peter Iverson, David Biddulph, The Conroy family, Angeles and Karla Zapala, Rhonda Noonan, 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.)



RECONCILIATION

Saturday Vigil Mass:

St Finbarr's, Byron Bay 5.30 - 5.50pm

Sunday:

St Kevin's, Bangalow 9.00 - 9.20am

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

9.30am Sunday

6.00pm Saturday



ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY WEEKLY MASSES

LOLO

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

CONFIRMATION: Term 2 – Year 3.

Parent Meeting: St Finbarr's Church - 6.00pm
Sacrament: St Finbarr's Church - 6.00pm

Wednesday 10th June
Tuesday 30th June



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Term 3 – Year 4.

Parent Meeting: St Finbarr's Church – 6.00pm
Sacrament: St Finbarr's Church, Vigil Mass – 6pm

Wednesday 12th August
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.*

CUPPA AFTER MASS AT ST FINBARR'S, BYRON BAY. PLEASE JOIN US!

St Finbarr's Catholic Church after 6.00pm Mass on
Saturday, 2nd May.

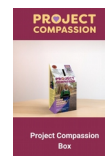


Please bring a plate to share.

All are very welcome!

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES/ENVELOPES

Can you please return any remaining
Project Compassion
boxes/envelopes by next Sunday.
*They can be placed in
the first collection.*



Thank you!



They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

We will remember them.



Marist House of Light - Spiritual Accompaniment.

Are you interested in exploring your spiritual world?

One way of doing this is by considering regular spiritual direction.
If you would like to chat about what this could look like for you please contact us at
maristhouseoflight@gmail.com or phone us on 0438 689 137.

We are located at 8 Keen Street, Lismore.



EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028

We approach the Eucharist fully aware that we are approaching Christ himself.
The Eucharist is a mystery of presence, the perfect fulfilment of Jesus' promise
to remain with us.

Pope Saint John Paul II,

Apostolic Letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine* – Stay with us Lord §16.

2026 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE.

The 6th National Count of Attendance at Mass and Other (Sunday) Assemblies will take place in May 2026. This year marks a significant milestone—25 years of national attendance data, beginning with the first count in 2001. The 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced attendance patterns in 2021.





Continued from front page...

In John 10 there is no border collie, no intermediary barking commands or nipping heels on the shepherd's behalf. The relationship is direct. The sheep follow not because they are herded, but because they recognise who is calling them; and just as importantly, who is not. Strangers, thieves, and brigands do not get a hearing. The sheep run from those voices.

This distinction helps make sense of the other readings. In Acts, Peter's Pentecost sermon does not press its audience. Those listening are "cut to the heart" and ask, freely, "*What must we do?*" (Acts 2:37). Their response – repentance, baptism, and entry into the community – flows from recognition rather than force. Likewise, the letter of 1 Peter describes people who had "gone astray like sheep" but have now returned to "*the shepherd and guardian*" of their souls (1 Pet 2:25). They are not driven back into line. They come back because they have learned where safety and life are found.

There is something quietly confronting here for contemporary Australians. We are rightly suspicious of authority exercised through fear, pressure, or manipulation. The gospel affirms that instinct. Jesus does not ask for blind obedience. Jesus calls for discernment and reason. Not every voice deserves our trust. Some voices do steal, kill, and destroy. Others promise freedom but operate like wolves in disguise.

Jesus, the good shepherd, does not "*dog*" our heels. He goes ahead of the flock rather than pushing from behind. He opens the gate rather than cornering the sheep. He leads the flock toward open pastures, not enclosed pens. And he promises not just survival, but life "*to the full.*"

Perhaps the humour lies in recognising ourselves in Babe's sheep. We are not stupid, but we are vulnerable. We know pressure when we feel it, and we know when fear is being used to move us along. Easter's good news is that the risen Christ does not manage us like livestock. He calls us by name, invites trust, and teaches us to recognise His voice among all the others clamouring for attention.

Ian J Elmer @ Majellan Media 2026



UNIT AVAILABLE MACKILLOP PLACE, BANGALOW

A unit will shortly become available in our self-care residential facility in Bangalow.

2 bedroom unit in block of 8. Combined lounge/dining area, modern kitchen and bathroom with a single lock up garage.

Enquiries to:- Will Danaher – 0410 515 474

VOCATIONS VIEW:

During April in the Mass, we celebrate the expansion of the Church and the spread of the Gospel. The good news of Jesus risen transforms lives. Is God calling you to be a minister of his Gospel as a deacon or priest to transform lives? Contact Vocations Lismore to consider your call. vocations@lismore.catholic.org



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—3.65% (eff 1/4/2026)

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