



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St. Kevin's, Bangalow

Trust in Jesus' embrace.

9th August, 2026
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. *'It is a ghost'* they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, *'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'* It was Peter who answered. *'Lord,'* he said *'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.'* *'Come'* said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. *'Lord! Save me!'* he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. *'Man of little faith,'* he said *'why did you doubt?'* And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, *'Truly, you are the Son of God.'*

TODAY'S READINGS – 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

***Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.***

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word*

Alleluia!

Trust in Jesus' embrace.

In June 2018, twelve boys and their coach found themselves trapped in a cave in northern Thailand. The flood waters were rising, and the water-filled tunnels of the cave were narrow and pitch dark.

Adding to the complexity of their rescue, the children and their coach could not swim. Australian anaesthetist and cave diver Richard Harris and his colleague Craig Challen were willing to take a leap of faith. They would anaesthetise them all to prevent panicking or drowning. This innovative strategy was crucial in the eventual success of the international rescue operation.

Likewise, the disciples' panic at the rising storm buffeting their boat must have been compounded by Jesus's sudden appearance as he walked across the water. Jesus's loving reassurance that he was not a ghost - *"It is I, do not be afraid"* - would have quelled their fears.

Peter's response may resonate with many of us: *"Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water."* We trust in the Lord; yet need reassurance. Jesus's response fills Peter with peace and courage. He says simply to Peter, *"Come."*

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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

**16th August,
2026**

**20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A**

LECTOR/S

**MINISTER OF
COMMUNION**

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay**

6.00pm

Saturday
15/08//2026

Simone
Wallington

Micheal
Harris

**St Kevin's
Bangalow**

9.30am

Sunday
16/08/2026

June
Zentveld

NEXT WEEK: (20th Sunday Year A)

Isaiah 56:1,6-7; Psalm 66;
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Brian McGettigan, Shirley Boyle, Carmel Kenway, Frank Hannigan, Ben Callahan, John Weir, Pedro Guterres, Simon Ulyatt, Ella Varcoe, Peter Iverson, Robert McCabe, Louise Banno, George Cox, Narelle King, Sr Berenice Kerr, Sr Frances Kuhn, Ann Steengaard (Gilbey), Yvonne Myskew,

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Hazel O'Meara, Vince Boyle, Stephen Buckley, Carmel McLean, Teresa Pezzutti, May Higgins, Ron Maher, James Collins, Ron Phelps, Harvey & Dawn Passfield, Bill Noonan, Fred Higgins, Margaret O'Meara, Lloyd Gilbey, John Dynan, Cheryl Meanwell, Margaret Gill, Pope Francis, Bishop John Satterthwaite

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

Patricia Higgins, The Conroy family, Angeles and Karla Zapala, Rhonda Noonan, Mary Phelps, Matthew O'Sullivan, 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 5.15pm - 5.45pm

Sunday:

St Kevin's, Bangalow 10.20am - 10.45am

ST FINBARR'S CHURCH

BYRON BAY

LEGION OF MARY - Monday - 10.00am

ROSARY - Friday - 8.30am



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH BANGALOW/BYRON BAY

WEEKLY MASSES

St Finbarr's, Byron Bay

9.30am Friday

9.00am Saturday 'Assumption'

6.00pm Saturday

St Kevin's, Bangalow

9.30am Sunday



ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY

WEEKLY MASSES

St John's

Mullumbimby

9.30am Wednesday

11.00am Saturday 'Assumption'

8.00am Sunday

OLOL

Brunswick Heads

5.30pm Thursday

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 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

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

Saturday/Sunday 22nd - 23rd August

Saturday/Sunday 29th - 30th August

Saturday/Sunday 5th - 6th September

Saturday 12th September

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 -

PLEASE JOIN US AT ST KEVIN'S, BANGALOW

- for a "Cuppa" after 9.30am Mass **today!**

All welcome!



The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Saturday 15th August, 2026.

9.00am
St Finbarr's
Byron Bay



11.00am
St John's
Mullumbimby

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL LISMORE PAST NURSES ANNUAL REUNION

Saturday 29 August

Mass 10.30am - SVH Dalley St. LISMORE Chapel

Lunch 12md Lismore Heights Bowling Club

RSVP 16th August - Leslie B 0419489763



St Vincent's
LISMORE

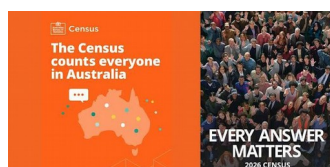
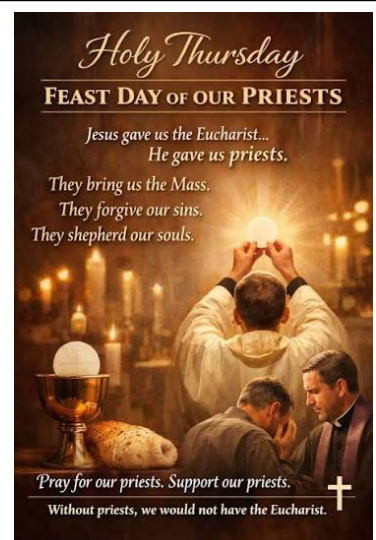
PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD FOR OUR DIOCESE OF LISMORE AND THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRY.

Prayer for Vocations to the Sacred Heart

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, fountain of love and mercy,
raise up holy priests after Your Own Heart:
humble and pure, and consumed with zeal for souls.

Draw young men to Yourself and enflame their hearts with desire to make
You known through Word and Sacrament,
both in times of tranquility and tribulation.
O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we trust in You.

Prayer cards available at the entrance to the Church – Please take one.



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CENSUS IS COMING UP.

All baptised Catholics, whether you attend Mass every week or only occasionally, are strongly encouraged to tick '**Catholic**' on the religion question. Government funding for catholic schools, hospitals, aged care, and social welfare agencies relies on this data.

If you belong to an Eastern rite community (eg., Maronite, Syro-Malabar, Ukrainian). Please select "**Other**" and write you specific rite. Stand up and be counted to help us plan for the future of our faith community.





Continued from front page.

Peter gets out of the boat and, quite miraculously, finds himself walking on the water towards Jesus. But, looking at the wind and the waves around him though, starts to sink. He cries out to the Lord and immediately Jesus reaches out and rescues him. In that moment, Peter's relief at Jesus' timely rescue must surely have been accompanied by the overwhelming realisation that Jesus' loving, tender presence would never have let him drown. Peter realises that he is deeply and tenderly loved, in spite of all his inadequacies. Some years after the cave rescue, Richard Harris said in an interview that while growing up, he had a sense of struggling to find where he felt he belonged. Leaning into his sense of vulnerability, he discovered the camaraderie of companions who shared his passion for the outdoors. Their adventures in cave-diving helped them discover a newfound courage as they went beyond the limits imposed by their anxieties.

As Bishop Robert Prevost in Peru, Pope Leo exemplified a deep spirit of accompaniment with those in need. When covid-19 hit Peru, oxygen shortages and economic collapse led to widespread deaths. He organised for oxygen supplies to be distributed. Despite the exhausting logistics of this operation, he persisted in working in solidarity with everyone involved. Sometime after the covid pandemic, during the floods in the region, he was present with those struggling as he stood knee-deep in flood waters, assisting in relief operations.

Even at our most vulnerable moments, Jesus invites us to be courageous and audacious in trusting his steadfastness and his unfailing embrace of our frailties. Let us lean into the accompaniment of those who walk with us. Jesus looks steadfastly at us across the wind and water, and says, "Come".

Sophie Clements @ Majellan Media 2026

2028 INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist

The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028!

At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, who's body and blood we share.

In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.*" (John 6:54) Through the Eucharist, Christ unites us to Himself and draws us into the eternal life He promises.

This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ.

To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28, head to **eucharist28.org** for more.

Some stories in this weeks edition:

The Catholic Weekly



- Day for women's health brings hope and healing.
- People are not 'data' to be optimised says expert.
- Gen Z tech professional's warning about mixing AI and faith.
- The migrant story behind 95 year old devotion.
- Pope honours Dr Sandra Lynch and Michael King.

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—4.15% (eff 1/8/2026) For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516