



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St. Kevin's, Bangalow

Never too late to change.

6th September 2026
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



A reading from the holy Gospel according to *Matthew 18: 15-20*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.

TODAY'S READINGS – Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

***O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.***

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ,
to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation
he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Never too late to change.

Living and working in a community – be it large or small – is not always easy. We all know that. It is “*par for the course*” that tensions, disagreements, and challenges arise and need to be handled for the sake of community well-being. But it is not easy. The early church communities were no exception. In this week's gospel we glimpse one of the challenges that arose in the community for whom Matthew writes his gospel. The challenging issue at hand is what to do with members of the community who are at fault or in error, perhaps living or behaving in ways that are contrary to Jesus' teaching, perhaps causing divisions or confusion in the community, perhaps leading other members astray in their faith and practice, perhaps even causing harm to “*little ones*.” Sin is a reality in our human condition and in our communities. What to do? How to deal with it?

In the gospel reading, Jesus instructs his disciples on how to deal with sinful behaviour in the community. On the one hand, followers of Jesus are to be compassionate, merciful and forgiving.

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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

**13th
September
2026**

**24th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A**

LECTOR/S

**MINISTER OF
COMMUNION**

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

**Saturday
12/09//2026**

**Lorraine
Atwell**

**Mary
Dynan**

**St Kevin's
Bangalow
9.30am**

**Sunday
13/09/2026**

**June
Zentveld**

NEXT WEEK: (24th Sunday Year A)

Sirach 27:30-28:7; Roman 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased.

Patricia Higgins, 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:

Carmelo Farrugia, 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

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

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

St Kevin's, Bangalow

9.30am Friday

6.00pm Saturday

9.30am Sunday



ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY

WEEKLY MASSES

St John's

Mullumbimby

9.30am Wednesday

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.

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 FINBARR'S - TONIGHT

for a "Cuppa" after 6.00pm Mass.

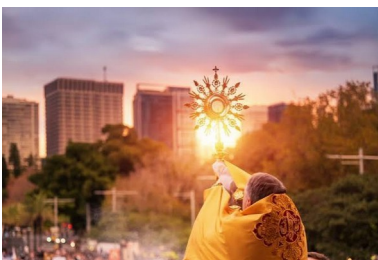


Heavenly Father,
we thank You for the gift of fathers and father figures.
Bless them with strength, wisdom, patience, and joy.
Surround them with Your grace and guide their steps every day.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

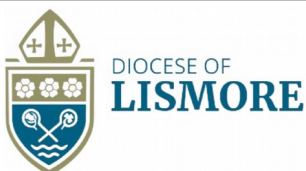


EUCCHARIST28

As part of our two years of preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028, a collaborative group has begun meeting to discuss what is happening across parishes, what Eucharist28 means for our communities, and how the four pillars of Formation, Worship, Charity and Evangelisation can be used as a lens for reflection.



A new resource is also now available:
the Walking with Christ Companion, a set of six modules designed to accompany the Eucharist28 catechetical materials with structured time for prayer, reflection and discussion. Sessions run for around 60 to 90 minutes and can be used individually, in families, parish groups, ministry teams or schools.



The Lismore Diocese September Renewal Newsletter is now available on the Parish website.

September Renewal Newsletter



Scan the QR code to read the newsletter

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to read it here.

INDEPENDENT LIVING UNIT – CENTRAL BANGALOW.



Over 55yrs Retirement Village. Small, friendly complex in the centre of Bangalow. Newly renovated spacious 2 bedroom unit with lock-up garage. Licence to occupy arrangement – includes entry fee and refundable portion on departure. *Enquiries to:- Geoff Gill – 0428 536 902 or Will Danaher – 0410 515 474*



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



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But Jesus is clear: that does not mean that anything goes or that we are to turn a blind eye when members of the community behave in ways that are sinful. Not at all!

Jesus describes a disciplinary procedure for responsible fraternal correction of an erring member of the community. At first, the matter is to be treated with discretion and sensitivity, and the one at fault addressed in a one-to-one meeting and their wrong doing addressed with them with a view to its correction.

If that approach does not lead the member to correct their misbehaviour, then assistance is to be sought from two or three other members of the community and the matter addressed again with the one in error. Should these attempts prove futile, the recalcitrant person is to be brought before the community, and, if even this correction is rebuffed, the person is to be excluded – in other words, excommunicated – from the community.

Jesus says that they should then be treated “*as a Gentile and a tax-collector*,” in other words as an outsider, not a member of the community. But remember, Jesus had particular concern and compassion for the outsider. He reached out to outsiders; he befriended Gentiles and tax-collectors. It seems that Jesus means for the community to keep reaching out to the person in the hope that they will eventually see and correct their error, make amends, and re-enter the community.

Jesus doesn't promise it will be easy. It takes courage. But he assures his disciples, and us too, that he is always with us: “*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.*” It is a message he reiterates in his very last words in Matthew's gospel: “*Behold I am with you always*” (Mt 28:20).

Anne Hunt @ Majellan Media 2026



Office of the
Children's Guardian



From 1 October 2026, private health facilities in NSW will be included in the Reportable Conduct Scheme (RCS), and the Child Safe Scheme (CSS).

This change strengthens safeguards for children in private healthcare settings by:
introducing oversight of reportable allegations supporting consistent child-safe practices across sectors
ensuring employers respond appropriately to concerns about staff conduct towards children.

6-12 Sept 2026
NATIONAL CHILD
PROTECTION WEEK

*Funded by the
Australian Government
Department of Social Services*

EVERY CONVERSATION **MATTERS**
SHIFTING
CONVERSATION
TO ACTION



Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

The Kids Helpline is a free 24 hour telephone counselling service for children and young people aged between 5 and 25.



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