



The Living Spirit

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

St. Finbarr's, Byron Bay



St. Kevin's, Bangalow

Rewarding the repentant heart.

27th September 2026
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "*My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.*" He answered, "*I will not go,*" but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "*Certainly, sir,*" but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

TODAY'S READINGS – Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 24; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

Today's Liturgy - Psalm Response.

*Remember your mercies,
O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Rewarding the repentant heart.

This week's Second Reading contains a very early Christian hymn and quotes from the prophet Isaiah, which proclaims that "*all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld should bend the knee*" to God (Is. 45:23). But St Paul instead writes: "*at the name of Jesus.*"

Here, St Paul attributes eternal and divine kingship to Jesus. He explains that Jesus was divine from the beginning, but "*did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave.*"

Jesus had been claiming this authority since he began his ministry. In the gospel, which follows the cleansing of the money changers from the Temple, Jesus continues to challenge the chief priests over who is best placed to represent God in the world.

The Jewish leaders claimed to be the mouthpieces of God and models of the kind of life that God wanted from his people. But, as Jesus had been demonstrating since he arrived in Jerusalem, the chief priests had become corrupt, abusing their positions. By contrast, as we hear in the Second Reading, Jesus is about to display what the self-sacrificing love of God really looks like by "*accepting death, death on a cross.*"

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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

**4 October
2026**

**27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A**

LECTOR/S

**MINISTER OF
COMMUNION**

**St Finbarr's
Byron Bay**

6.00pm

Saturday
03/10/2026

Suzanne
Wallington

Mary
Dynan

**St Kevin's
Bangalow**

9.30am

Sunday
04/10/2026

Susie
Douglas

NEXT WEEK: (27th Sunday Year A)

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 79; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew
21:33-43

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:

Bill Woolcott, Hazel Hollands, Vlad Sezemsky, 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

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

9.30am Friday

6.00pm Saturday

St Kevin's, Bangalow

9.30am Sunday



ST. JOHN'S PARISH BRUNSWICK VALLEY WEEKLY MASSES

St John's

Mullumbimby

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>



CONGRATULATIONS

To the children of our Parish who received their First Holy Communion.



The Sacrament of the Eucharist

The Sacrament of the Eucharist brings to completion the Christian process of initiation. In this Sacrament we remember what Jesus did for us in his life, death and resurrection.

CUPPA AFTER MASS -

PLEASE JOIN US AT ST FINBARR'S -

for a "Cuppa" after 6.00pm Mass -

Saturday 3 October, 2026.

Please bring a plate of goodies to share.



CUPPA AFTER MASS -

PLEASE JOIN US AT ST KEVIN'S -

for a "Cuppa" after 9.30am Mass

Sunday 11th October, 2026.

Please bring a plate of goodies to share.



Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region

The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.

Applications close 31st October, 2026.

Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

2026 - PUBLIC ROSARY

JOIN US FOR A NATION-WIDE ROSARY CHAIN.

Saturday 10th October at 11am

BEACHFRONT PARK OPPOSITE

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH, LENNOX HEAD.

ALL WELCOME

Shared Lunch will follow the Rosary Crusade. (Shared "treat" plate appreciated.)

Bring your Rosaries and bring a fold-up chair if needed, umbrella for sun or rain.

Enquiries: Marie 0409 887 677



Ignite YA Festival (18-35)

Ignite Youth is bringing Selah (Ignite YA Festival) back to our Diocese for the second time. After an incredible launch last year, where more than 100 young adults gathered in prayer and fellowship, this is something you don't want to miss.

Set amongst the beautiful bushland of Selah Valley Estate, this is a chance to step away, meet great people, pray deeply, laugh loudly, and experience a vibrant Catholic community.



Date: 4-7 December 2026

Location: Selah Valley Estate, Limpinwood

General Admission: \$110 (subsidies available)



SPECIAL MASS IN HONOUR OF ST THÉRÈSE

Carmelite Monastery Goonellabah

Thursday, 1st October

10:00 am.

(There will be no 7:00 Mass on that day.)

All welcome.



Continued from front page.

Jesus' parable - about the father who asks his two sons to work in his vineyard - is significant because it evokes an Old Testament image of Israel as a vineyard lovingly created by God that produces rotten fruit (Isaiah 5). Although Israel, particularly its religious leaders, have been chosen to be an instrument through which God blesses the whole world (see Genesis 12), they have not led lives that reflect who God is. They have signed up to God's service but haven't delivered.

But, as Jesus explains, those with clearly flawed lives are more likely to acknowledge their failings, turn away from how they were living, and be fruitful for God.

Rewarding the repentant heart was God's plan from the start. As God says through the prophet Ezekiel in the First Reading, "When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live."

In comparison to John the Baptist, whom Jesus described as "*a pattern of true righteousness*," none of us look particularly good. Yet it was the tax collectors and sinners who were more likely to listen and be changed by Jesus than those who seemed blameless.

Let us allow Jesus to challenge us when we, like the second son in the parable, have said "Yes" but have then gone off and done otherwise. Let us hear and respond to God's call and go out and work in the vineyard, as a member of Christ's Body, which he gave up for love of the world.

Let us pray with the Psalm: "*Lord, make me know your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God, my saviour.*"

Damian Coleridge @ Majellan Media 2026

EUCCHARIST28 PRAYER



Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the
Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.



Grant us the grace to receive you reverently,
worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the
Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need,
especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received,
the Body of Christ.

Amen



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS TO DRIVE CULTURAL CHANGE.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) shone a spotlight on thousands of cases where organisations in Australia failed to protect children in their care from abuse. It highlighted that abuse that occurs within an organisational context is not just a problem of the past, it continues today. Many victims and survivors were motivated to tell their stories to the inquiry, to prevent harm to children now and into the future.

The Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission provide a framework for making organisations safer for children. They have been accepted by the NSW government. Based on extensive research and consultation, the Standards provide tangible guidance for organisations to create cultures, adopt strategies and act to put the interests of children first, to keep them safe from harm.



Office of the
Children's Guardian

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

