

The Clergy, Wardens and Office welcome your enquiries and calls.

Rector:

Rev'd Canon Grahame Yager
6684 3552

Associate Priest

Rev'd Brenda Yager

Deacon

Rev'd Murray Fysh

Administration Centre:

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Office Support:

Sue Williams

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Byron Bay

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Phone: 6684 3552

Office Hours: Wednesday 9am-3pm

Friday 9am-12.30pm.

Wardens Patricia Ellis (Rector's Warden),
Ian White, Laura East.



Acknowledgement of Country

We, acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of this land.

We pay tribute and respect to the elders both past and present.



4th May 2025

All are welcome



Swanson, John August. The Great Catch, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

*A Christian presence in the community, living by faith,
known by love, sharing a voice of hope.*

From Grahame

In our focus passage from the Acts of the Apostles this week, we hear of Saul looking for new ways to persecute followers of Jesus. Saul believed he was living a life faithful to God, and acting out of that faith. We know from his own testimony that Saul believed he was being the best Jewish Roman Citizen he could be by persecuting those who believed in Jesus. Beginning in Acts 7.58 we hear of Saul minding the coats of those who were throwing stones as Stephen was martyred. Saul, conscientious in his commitment to God then searched out those who had been scattered by the violence, going from house to house so that what he perceives as a corruption of God's word may be destroyed.

There are different ways of interpreting Holy Scripture. One way is that when we find something we don't like in our life or in the wider world, we look to find a passage in the Bible which supports the way we think things should in the hope that what we want to happen will then happen – in my experience this way is susceptible to feeding our fears and prejudices, making difficult situations worse. It would seem Saul may have been under this influence. The other way is to reflect on the Holy Scriptures and allow them to lead us into what God wants for us and for all God's people.

We need to be very clear. As far as we can tell Saul believed he was doing everything for God. That was his motivation. He believed Stephen was speaking against God, he believed Stephen to be an abomination to God; he believed there was no punishment too great for Stephen. Today we have church buildings named after Stephen; we have special days to remember that Stephen was willing to speak out about what God wanted the world to be like no matter what. Not so much commemoration of Saul.

Saul had a transformative experience on the road to Damascus, realised the error he had made and then spent

Weekly Happenings

Clergy & Staff can be contacted via email or phone

TUESDAY	Parish Office Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
WEDNESDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-3pm
THURSDAY	Parish Office Mullumbimby 9am-4pm AOK St Paul's Byron Bay 10am Coffee with Murray in recess for 3 weeks
FRIDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm Parish Office Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
SATURDAY	Hive Playgroup Bangalow from 9.30am
SUNDAY	Sunday Sanctuary Meditation All Souls Bangalow 5pm

4th May Easter 3

7.30am	St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am	All Souls Bangalow
9am	St Martins Mullumbimby
9am	St Pauls Byron Bay

11th May Easter 4

7.30am	St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am	All Souls Bangalow
9am	St Martins Mullumbimby
9am	St Pauls Byron Bay
11am	St Columba Ewingsdale

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow	Monday - Friday 10am-2pm Saturday - 9.30am-12.30pm
Byron Bay	Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm
Mullumbimby	Monday - Friday 9.30am - 3.30pm

Parish Direct Debit details for tithes.

Anglican Parish of Byron **BSB:** 705 077 **Account:** 00041263

Prayer Focus This Week:

MISSION

National Home Mission Fund

Chairman: The Right Rev'd Geoff Smith

Diocese of Grafton Senior Leadership Team

Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey

Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks

The Diocese of Adelaide

Archbishop Geoff Smith, Bishop Tim Harris & Fiona, Bishop Chris McLeod & Susan, Bishop Sophie Relph-Christopher, Clergy and Laity

The Parish of Ballina

The Rev'd Cathy Ridd, The Rev'd Amanda Larkin, The Rev'd Richard Brown & Carol.

LLM: John, Kerry, Pat, John, Mark

Local Prayer Focus

Carol, Neil, Brett, Janie, Marjory, Lin, Hilary and Paul, Rachael

The Community Centres and their work with the homeless.
The Liberation Larder, The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, Ministry of Byron Bay & Mullumbimby Christian Education.

Mission of the Month for May:

Bush Church Aid



Bush Church Aid is all about Aid to the Church in the **Bush**; providing biblically faithful ministry and bringing the life-changing gospel message of Jesus to rural, regional, and remote Australia.



the remainder of his life named Paul, gathering together the faithful people he had first worked so hard to scatter.

As we seek to offer a message of hope in an uncertain world, who are being scattered? Who are the those labelled as abominations seeking an encounter with Jesus today? How are we responding to them? Are we acting to gather the scattered or are we reacting in fear? Are we following the example of Saul or of Paul as we witness to God's revelation in Jesus the Christ?

The self-appointed expert on judgement and persecution known as Saul, who thought he knew God, in the end knew nothing of God's transforming work until he himself was transformed. After his resurrection, Jesus met with those who had deserted him and held out his scarred hands offering peace. May we be so transformed by the love of God that we act as God's instruments of hope, peace and love every day. We are the 21st Century disciples of Jesus, and he calls us to share God's message of hope in an uncertain world. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

With every blessing,
Grahame



Services

4th May Easter 3

7.30am St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am All Souls Bangalow
9am St Martins Mullumbimby
9am St Pauls Byron Bay

11th May Easter 4

7.30am St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am All Souls Bangalow
9am St Martins Mullumbimby
9am St Pauls Byron Bay
11am St Columba Ewingsdale

Readings

4th May Easter 3

Acts 9:1-6, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:6-14, John 21:1-19

11th May Easter 4

Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7: 9-17, John 10:22-30

Parish News

Biggest Morning Tea



Our Biggest Morning Tea will be held on Friday 23rd May @10am in St Paul's Byron Bay. The theme this year is High Tea so come dressed appropriately. Entry is \$10.00. We will be running a competition for the most unusual or decorative teapot. Entry price is \$2.50. Guest Speaker is our very own Rev'd Brenda Yager. There will be a selection of goods for sale on a special table. Last year we raised over \$500 lets make this one even better!

Beanies and gloves for the disadvantaged

Once again we will be supplying beanies and gloves to those in need. They will go through the Neighbourhood Centre in Mullumbimby, The Liberation Larder, The Fletcher Street Cottage, the Parish Office, the Op Shop in Bangalow and St Paul's Byron Bay. If you would like to knit or crochet them we have plenty of wool in St Paul's please let us know or call in and get some, plus I have easy patterns too. Last year we

gave out 139 Beanies and 99 pairs of gloves. These small gifts make a wonderful difference to the receiver.

Backpacks for Kids

We have been approached by the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre to help put together backpacks for children escaping domestic violence or are in need. If unsure of what to buy a donation of money would be appreciated. Rev'd Brenda will be taking them over on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Sunday Sanctuary Meditation is back

Sunday Sanctuary Meditation is on at All Souls' Bangalow on Sundays at 5pm. Join us for live Taizé-inspired music, and contemplation. Sunday Sanctuary is the perfect way to cultivate stillness and calm in preparation for the challenges of the week ahead. We hope to see you there!



The Hive Playgroup

Saturdays at All Souls' Bangalow is from 9.30am. Come along and enjoy stories, songs, and yummy treats. If you have young people in your family, or know of any children (all ages are welcome!) who might like to come and enjoy games, activities and lots of fun, please keep Saturdays from 9:30am free.

Faithfulness in Service Training

Ballina Parish are conducting FIS training on Saturday 10th May 1.30-3.15pm. Phone Ballina Parish Office- 02 6686 2094 (Between 9am and 12.30pm Mon to Fri) or John Bryen 0417 678 564.

Coffee with Murray in recess for 3 weeks

A coffee gathering will be held each Thursday, 10.00am at Paseyo coffee shop which can be found on the corner of Stuart and Tincogan streets Mullumbimby. It is hoped this might be an opportunity for people to meet, share their story and build relationships. This will be an ongoing weekly event that friends and neighbors can be invited to.