



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
Fifty Years as a Parish in the Lower Blue Mountains

5 and 6 March 2016

4th Sunday of Lent, Year C

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 33; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

CRISIS IN THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Recently Fr Jolly referred to the crisis in the music ministry in our parish and I would like to support him in his appeal for help.

Over the years St. Finbar's has set a high standard in liturgy and music and has become known as one of the best "singing" parishes in the Diocese. We are supported in this by the wonderful Christmas and Good Friday concerts, and other performances within the church which bring visitors of all denominations to St. Finbar's. The bar has been set very high and we have become used to it.

But things are changing. Recent losses in the ministry have taken their toll. Those who are left to carry on are exhausted, and yet still take up the "baton" to support the liturgy in voice and instrument. We need organists as well, as we are fortunate to own a magnificent Pipe Organ. Special thanks to Jenny Long who comes to us from a great distance to help us.

Music is the language of the liturgy and of the spirit. In order to keep the assets we have and the services we offer we need others to step up. If you can play an instrument or sing we urge you to set up your own group with some friends or new recruits, or join an already existing group. We need new energy and inspiration to enable and encourage people to sing lustily and with confidence at church, directed by good music leaders.

I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by Geoff Shalala, not only to music within the parish, but in just about everything that was ever going on. His colleague, composer Peter Grant is sadly leaving the parish and taking his expertise with him. I myself would like to retire some time this year after more than 40 years of commitment to music at St. Finbar's.

Most prominent in the music ministry is the Music Co-ordinator and Cantor Mary Lopez whose tireless work with the children's choir gives so much pleasure to all and sets the groundwork for church musicians of the future. Youth Group leader Claire Brown is a talented and inspirational force behind the Youth Group musicians as well as being a pianist in her own right, and is being called on more and more often. Matthew Philips and Troy are other young musicians whose talent and commitment to the parish is being sought more frequently.

Musicians and singers from other groups are appreciated and commended for their faithful service. All these people face burnout if they are spread too thinly in the role of lifting the voices of the congregation in song.

We do not take this position lightly and we urge you to think seriously of the consequences of a depleted music ministry in the parish. **Please help.**

Judy Burrett

Contact: Mary Lopez 4754 4955
Judy Burrett 4754 1780

<p>Sunday 6 March</p> <p>7.30am and 9.30am Masses. 5.00pm The Edge Group. P/C 6.00pm Youth Mass. 7.30pm Lounge Group. P/C</p>	<p>Thursday 10 March</p> <p>9.00am Mass 9:30am Beginners Bridge M/R 1.30pm Bridge. P/C 3.30pm Children's Choir Practice. Church 7.30pm Blue Labyrinth Dancers. P/C</p>
<p>Monday 7 March</p> <p>10.30am Latin Mass</p>	<p>Friday 11 March</p> <p>9.00am Mass followed by Adoration and Benediction. 1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p>Tuesday 8 March</p> <p>9.00 Mass. 11.30am Cantabile practice. Church 7.30pm Baptism Preparation. M/R 7.30pm Adult Education. P/C</p>	<p>Saturday 12 March</p> <p>9.00am Mass 3.00pm Prayer Group for Parents. M/R 3.30pm RCIA. W/S 4.45pm - 5.15pm Confessions. 5:30pm Vigil Mass 7.30pm Bush School Fundraiser. P/C</p>
<p>Wednesday 9 March</p> <p>8.00am Mass followed by the Rosary 9.00am Pastoral Care meeting. M/R 9.30am Playgroup. P/C 7.00pm Bridge. P/C</p>	<p>Sunday 13 March</p> <p>7.30am and 9.30am Masses. 11.00am Baptisms.</p>

WELCOME to all visitors to our church today. We extend greetings to you. If you wish to join St Finbar's Parish, please make yourself known to one of our Wardens so we can give you our Parish Welcome and Information pack.

St. Finbar's Parish News



Fourth
Sunday
of Lent

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
PROJECT
COMPASSION



First Australian Evangeline lives in a remote community that faces many ongoing challenges. She had a limited vision for her future until three years ago, when she started working at the Djilpin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre, a community-owned venture supported by Caritas Australia. Today Evangeline is flourishing, with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture.

EASTER VIGIL CHOIR: there will be 2 more practices ...Wednesday 9th March, and also 16th March at 7.30pm—9.00pm in the Church. I will be co-ordinating this choir as neither Geoff or Peter are able to do it this year. We thank both of them for the many years of service to the music ministry. I look forward to singing with “familiar faces” and newcomers. As long as you can sing in tune, you’ll be very welcome. Enquires, Mary 47544955

CONCERT FOR CAMBODIA NEXT SATURDAY MARCH 12 Don't forget our concert starting 7.30pm. Features Musical Acts, Vocal Groups, Singing and Dance, in support of the *Bush School*, Cambodia. Any donations of finger food for supper greatly appreciated. For bookings, phone Doug on 47015459 or 0403303943. Entry \$20 per person, \$40 per family (or by donation)

CARING FOR CARERS & others who would benefit from PRAYER THROUGH ART. As we enter into the last few weeks of Lent, PRAYER through ART (no artistic talent is required) explores feelings in a colourful REFLECTIVE WAY. Presented by Margaret Richards. Morning Tea provided. TUESDAY 15th March at St Finbar's Parish Centre. 10am - 12noon. For more information please contact Kath 47392651

FOR YOUR DIARY: please be aware on Sunday 3rd April we be celebrating our Completion of our Jubilee and Divine Mercy Sunday. We will have only 1 Mass at 9.30am, the **7.30am Mass** will be **cancelled** for that Sunday only.

MUSIC OF JS BACH: And Sacred Readings for Good Friday, 25 March 2016 at 7.30pm

The Blue Mountains Chorale Robert Ampt – Conductor and Organist Amy Johansen – Choir accompanist

Some of the profound music of JS Bach will again be part of this year's meditation in St. Finbar's on Good Friday. Offering choral and organ music together with special readings and meditations, this annual service will feature several of the wonderful choral settings from the Passions. In the tradition of the Bach settings, the congregation will also participate, singing some of the great Passion hymns.

There will be a retiring offering.

YOUTH MASS IS ON THIS SUNDAY 6PM.

Edge (5-6pm) and Lounge (7:30-8:30pm) groups will be meeting and in their own unique, fun ways will be looking at temptation, choices, good vs. evil. We hope to see you there.

In other news, a little boy (Ashmit) who is part of the Fiji Kids Learning for Life program (a charity we have sponsored as a parish in the past) is coming to Sydney this week for life saving surgery for a brain tumour. Just getting him here is a small miracle but he still desperately needs all prayers.

If you are in a position to help with the cost of his medical expenses (which are being provided at a much discounted rate by Westmead hospital and a neurosurgeon who works there) please click on the link below or go to the Go Fund Me website and search for Asmit.

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St. Finbar's Parish News

EASTER CEREMONIES

We are now calling for volunteers for all the Easter ceremonies for 2016. You will find a blank roster in the church narthex, near the Wardens' table. Please put your name down for all ceremonies that you are able to volunteer for and thus become fully involved in celebrating Easter this year.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND

Many thanks to all those parishioners who gave generously to the DWF last weekend. There are still envelopes on the seats and at the Wardens' table for those who were away last week or were otherwise unable to donate.

Please drop your completed envelope on any collection this weekend.

WYD TICKETS: We have 46 World Youth Day raffle booklets to be returned.

Those who are still holding them please bring back them this week, as they have to be sent back to Parramatta. Fr Jolly.

FIRST COMMUNION INFORMATION: On **Monday 14th March** we are holding an Information Night for the parents of children who wish to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The evening will be held in the Parish Centre from 7.30pm. Dates and requirements for participation in each of the sacramental journeys will be discussed and distributed at this meeting.

PRAYER & MEDITATION AFTERNOON FOR PARENTS (BABYSITTERS NEEDED!)

Please make a note of our 2016 dates (occurring monthly, every 2nd Saturday from 3-4pm):

12 March; 9 April; 14 May; 11 June; 9 July; 13 August; 10 Sept; 15 Oct; 12 Nov; 10 Dec

Please contact Annemaree Baird (0412 942 299) to receive the pre-reading. Any new young parents, couples and parishioners are most welcome.

THE RCIA catechumens, candidates, sponsors and team would appreciate your prayers and support. We are now in the period of Catechumenate. Barry, Daniel, Michelle and Sarah are invited into the mystery of God's love, to a gospel way of life. The Catechumenate uses language of nurture such as growth, maturity, response and promise. It is essentially a time of apprenticeship. This is a period to experience being called and chosen, a time to respond through conversion. During the Vigil Mass in the Sundays of Lent we have Scrutinies, special prayers, rites and blessings with deep meaning relating back to the Early Church. Thank you to all at St Finbars for keeping us in your prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED: Dr Caroline Brayley (Aunt of Merrilee and John Verhoeven) Mel Nethrey (Elizabeth Rowe's mother), Jim Cook, Warwick Grange (Gerard Egan's cousin), Dela Baron (Erika McNay's mother), Patrick Walsh and Lachlan Throughgood.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS: Fr Mac, Joan Lohrey, Marcia Pereira, Matthew Jacka, Jim Daley, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Fr Max Barrett CSSR (Jim's brother), Colin Haywood, Roslyn Agar, Colleen Nolan, John Camilleri, Margaret Burley, Ray Smith (husband of Jan), Steven McCormack, Maddison Farrugia, Ken & Shirley Glover, Cliff McHardy, Ben Gibson and Emma Gleeson.

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Ellen Butcher, Hugh McDaid, Joan Morgan, William Chambers, Maree Bowden, Joseph Loader, Irene Williams, Harry Ragen, James Cottier, Vicki Noble and Catherine Smith.

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LEURA MEMORIAL GARDENS FUNERALS

PARISH INFORMATION

Sacraments

Confessions: Sat 4.45-5.15pm
 Baptisms: By Appointment
 Weddings: By Appointment

Office Hours: 8.30am – 4.00pm
 Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
 Office Phone: (02) 4739 8928
 Office Fax: (02) 4739 8929

Address:

46 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773
 PO Box 123 Glenbrook NSW 2773

Parish Priest: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

E-mail: jollyms20022000@yahoo.co.in
 Phone: 0417 541637

Secretary:

Margaret Rivas
 E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Admin:

Peter McMahon
 E-mail: admin@stfinbars.org.au
 Phone: 0404 010997

Web:

www.stfinbars.org.au

Parish School: Principal Mrs Donna McFadzean
 Phone: 4739 1796

Next week's Roster at St Finbar's 12 and 13 March 2016

Liturgical Ministries	5.30 pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	John Verhoeven	Rodney Moffitt	Deb Lawrence
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Andrew Duval
Junior Server	Lara Selby Kate Hanigan		Margaret, Nicolas & Christopher Gott
Warden	Ken Schneiders Chris O'Meara	Rodney Moffitt	Steve Newton
Welcomer	Margaret Moore		Suzanne McGrath
1st Reading	Allan Jones	Mary Creenaune	Annis Nilsson
2 nd Reading	Dawn Wills	Andrew Teece	Joe Lopez
Intercession	Ken Schneiders	Annie Teece	Richard Cutler
I.T Operator	Thais Turner	Elizabeth Konza	Joseph Marceau
Presentation of the Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	David & Dianne Shatford	Gott Family
Minister of Communion	Sybil Mason Thea & Brian Robertson Richard Mason Margaret Richards John Brown Volunteer please	Kath & Jim Tierney Gwen Cullinan Ann Keating	John Mullane Juliana Khnouf Mari McDonald Gerard Egan Garry Pursehouse Volunteer please Volunteer please
Children's Liturgy	Claire		
Cashier	Peter McMahon and Ken Townsend		
Hospitality	Anne King, Darren & Liz Dukes and Grace Buckley		
Church Care	Mary-Anne Stenning and Year 6 Group		



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