

# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
**3 and 4 December 2016**  
**Second Sunday of Advent, Year A**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.



At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

*Fr Michael Tate*

## PARISH CENSUS

Thank you to all the families who took part in the parish census last weekend. This will be a big help in getting the parish records up to date. There are some blank census cards on the Warden's table. If you were not able to complete a census card last weekend, please complete one this weekend and place it on either collection plate or give it directly to one of the Church Wardens.



This Thursday 8th December is the **Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. We will have a Mass at 10.00am which will incorporate the Healing Mass. Morning tea will be provided after the Mass in the Parish Hall.

<p><b>Sunday</b>  <b>4 December</b>  <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p><b>7.30 and 9.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>6.00pm Youth/ Family Mass.</b></p> <p><b>7.30pm Senior Youth Group. P/C</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday</b>  <b>8 December</b>  <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p> <p><b>10.00am Mass followed by morning tea.</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm Bridge. P/C .</b></p> <p><b>7.30pm Blue Labyrinth Dancers. P/C</b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b>  <b>5 December</b></p> <p><b>9.00 Mass.</b></p>	<p><b>Friday</b>  <b>9 December</b></p> <p><b>9.00am Mass followed by Benediction</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm Bowlers. P/C</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b>  <b>6 December</b></p> <p><b>9.00 Mass.</b></p> <p><b>7.30pm Pastoral Council meeting.</b></p> <p><b>7.30pm Baptism Preparation. M/R</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday</b>  <b>10 December</b></p> <p><b>9.00am Mass.</b></p> <p><b>4.45pm - 5.15pm Confessions.</b></p> <p><b>5:30pm Vigil Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b>  <b>7 December</b>  <i>St Ambrose</i></p> <p><b>8.00am Mass followed by Rosary.</b></p> <p><b>10.00am Playgroup. P/C</b></p> <p><b>3.10pm Edge Craft Session. P/C</b></p> <p><b>7.00pm Bridge. P/C</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b>  <b>12 December</b>  <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p><b>7.30 and 9.30am Mass</b></p>

**WELCOME** 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 Pack.

# St. Finbar's Parish News

## **SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2016**

**Christmas Hampers:** This year we will be following the format where families, groups or individuals make up and donate a full hamper or contribute items to be included in a hamper. ***Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date.*** A suggested items list is available for collection at the Warden's Table.

**Christmas Gift Tree:** The Christmas Gift tree has been put up this week and if parishioners wish to support this activity then please take a tag from the tree or wardens table, purchase a gift for a child as suggested on the tag and return the wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

All hampers/items and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than **Friday 16 December 2016.**

**We will need helpers at 9.00am on Saturday 17 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers. If you are able to assist us with this task please leave your name and contact details with the wardens.**

Thank you, fellow parishioners, for your generosity in helping to make this festive season special for families in need this Christmas.

## **YOUTH FINAL EVENTS FOR THE YEAR...**

**Sunday 4th December** Youth Mass 6pm

**Sunday 4th December** Lounge 7:30pm: year 6 are invited to this Scavenger Hunt extravaganza! Please invite all year 6 students.

**Wednesday 7th December** Edge Craft Afternoon (3:10-4:30pm): making gifts for the St Vincent de Paul hampers

Note: there will be no Edge group on Sunday 4th December. **Friday 16th December** Carols in Glenbrook Park 7:45pm

## **SINGERS WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS**

You are cordially invited to help the St Finbar's community celebrate the birth of our Lord with reverence and excitement by joining our choirs. You can sing at the Midnight Mass or Christmas Day Morning Mass. I will be directing the Midnight Mass Choir and Mr. Geoff Shalala will be directing the morning Mass choir. There is no age limit, everyone is most welcome. I wish to extend a special invitation to all the young people at St Finbar's to participate. If you have never been to a Midnight Mass before, then come and experience this holy occasion and you won't get into trouble from your parents for staying up late!

**Midnight Mass practice time:** every Tuesdays at 11.30 am and Thursdays 6.30 pm at the Church starting from Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> until Christmas. (But Tues 6<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am) You could go to any sessions, but minimum attendance is 3 sessions. Contact Matthew on 0421599079 or email: [mhy.phillips@gmail.com](mailto:mhy.phillips@gmail.com)

**Christmas Morning practice time:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, all at 11.30 am at the Church. Contact Geoff on 4739 4105 or email: [bshalala@westnet.com.au](mailto:bshalala@westnet.com.au)

Hope to see you soon. Thank you in advance for your Christmas spirit and generosity with your time. Matthew Phillips, Music coordinator.

## **2017 Calendars**

The 2017 religious calendars featuring beautiful artwork are now available at the Wardens table at the modest price of \$6 Franciscan and \$9 Columban



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:** Ida Watson-Will ( friend of the Rivas family), Daphne Grange (Joe's sister), Annette Hennessy, John Mulholland, Ken Glover, Betty Grange, Christopher Hunt (Helen & Terry (dec) son), Frank Christensen (Margaret's husband) and Janet Collins.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:** Terry Stevens, Jeff Dean, Grant Madden, Madge Boylan, Paul Clements (friend of Gwen Parker), Tony & Jacqui Visser, Noah Cariolato (student of St Columba's), Denise Keys, Fr Mac, Robert Toirkens, Stan Currey, Shirley Konza, John Camilleri, Carmel Quilty Malone, Pam Clyne, Emma Gleeson, Joanne Macrae, John Roebuck, Joan Lohrey, Jan Smith, Colleen Nolan, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Maddison Farrugia, Shirley Glover, Cliff McHardy and Ben Gibson.

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Winifred Nolan, Paul Gibberson, Carolyn Van Dyke, Phillip Moloney, Marjorie Clarke, Stephen Riddle, Stanley Lucas, Leo Hayes, John Debeck, Terence Hunt, Theresa Hemsley, Cornelus Van Der-Loo, Mary Bohan and Frank Macri.

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to love,  
and then to  
part is the..."*

*...saddest  
journey of  
the human  
heart"*

**LEURA MEMORIAL  
GARDENS FUNERALS**

# St. Finbar's Parish News

**DWF QUOTA:** we are still short of meeting our DWF quota, if you have been away for the last few weeks or would like to help us meet this quota the envelopes are located on the Wardens table. Please assist us.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Vigil Mass at 7.00pm.** Readings for the Vigil.

**Midnight Mass.** Readings of the night.

**Sunday morning 8.30am only.** Readings of the day.

## SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

The second Rite of Reconciliation will be held at Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm. We have joined with Emu Plains Parish for this event. All are welcome.

**Glenbrook Reconciliation is available after each weekday Mass with an extra time on Friday 23rd December at 10.30am.**

## SOLAR PANELS:

We would like to express our gratitude to all our contributors towards the cost of the installation of our solar panels on our parish hall roof. This installation covers most of the needs of our Parish Office, Church and Hall. The 5c contributions and all other donors helped to cover all our costs. Thanks to all concerned.

**Our 5c donation box** will continue to remain in the Narthex until Christmas. Please continue to drop your 5c and 10c or more. Whatever we raise during this season of Advent from those donations will go to help disadvantaged children to meet their studies in the Missions. Advent and Christmas is the time to support the less fortunate of our society.

*THANKS EVERYONE!*

## CALL FOR SACRISTAN AT 9:30AM MASS:

One of the very special ministries in the parish is that of Sacristan. The Sacristan works closely with the celebrant and prepares everything the celebrant needs to say Mass and puts everything away after Mass.

It is a privileged position that allows the volunteer to develop an intimate knowledge of the requirements for the celebration of Mass. The parish currently has two vacancies for someone to fill the role of Sacristan at the 9:30am Mass on Sundays. You will only be rostered once a month and complete training and mentoring will be provided. If you are interested, please contact the parish office and Peter will get in touch with you.

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN MUSIC AND SONG AT ST. FINBARS

### Music and Readings for Christmas

St Finbar's traditional Christmas celebration anticipated by the entire community will be held this year on

**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.30PM.**

Massed Choir, Readings, Harp, Handbells and Brass. Join the great organ in singing carols with the choir and congregation, and rejoice in the Hallelujah Chorus with brass and timpani.

Retiring collection – suggested donation:

Families \$30, individuals \$10.

Bring the family, friends and neighbours.


Proceeds towards the upkeep of the organ.

Enquiries 4754 1780.


## FINAL PRAYER & MEDITATION AFTERNOON FOR PARENTS SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

The next Parents' prayer & meditation afternoon will be held at St Finbar's on Saturday 10 December. All children are welcome and will be minded in the adjacent parish hall. We'd love to see you there. Please contact Anne-Maree Baird 0412942299 if you would like to attend.

**Any new young parents, couples and parishioners are most welcome.** If you are able to join the roster to babysit our children during this time, it would be greatly appreciated—just let Fr Jolly know.



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## 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: 10 and 11 December 2016

Liturgical Ministries	5.30 pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	John Verhoeven	Rodney Moffitt	Deb Lawrence
Senior Server	Ahysiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Andrew Duval
Junior Server	Lara Selby Kate Hanigan Joshua Toutounji Dominic Scanlan		Christopher, Margaret & Nicolas Gott
Warden	Ken Schneiders Chris O'Meara	Rodney Moffitt	Steve Newton
Welcomer	Margaret Moore		Suzanne McGrath
1st Reading	Beth Culliver	Ann Keating	Carmel Higgins
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Maureen Tulk	Elizabeth Konza	Erin Kelly
Intercession	Jacqui Visser	John Isaksen	Irene Aligno
It operator	Thais Turner	Ellen Teece	Joseph Marceau
Presentation of the Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	David & Dianne Shatford	Schneiders family
Minister of Communion	Sybil Mason Thea Robertson Brian Robertson Richard Mason Margaret Richards Anthony Toutounji Andrew Wilson	Kath & Jim Tierney Gwen Cullinan Ann Keating	John Mullane Juliana Khnouf Mari McDonald Gerard Egan Gary Pursehouse Volunteer please Volunteer please
Children's Liturgy	Christyna		
Cashier	Joe Grange and Ken Townsend		
Hospitality	Anne King, Darren & Liz Dukes and Grace Buckley		
Church Care	Erika McNay, Margaret & Ian Dickson, Noreen Taylor & Heather & Steve Lee		
Garden Club	<b>DECEMBER 19TH:</b> Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon, Melissa McDonald & Rodney Moffitt		
Music	Vigil Mass: M. Taylor & Matthew P		9.30am: Naomi's group



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