



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
10 and 11 December 2016
Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Ps 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. *Those* are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor and participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

Let us now pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

Fr Michael Tate

MUSIC AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

Massed Choir, Penrith City Brass, Harp, Handbells, Solo Artists, Amy Johansen – Organ,
 Robert Ampt – Conductor

*Join in congregational carols, Experience the thrill of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus
 With choir, organ, brass and timpani. On this night of Christmas joy*

Suggested donations: Families \$30, Individuals \$10

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: VIGIL AT 7PM, MIDNIGHT, 8:30AM

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND APPEAL We are still about \$550 short of our \$7,700 target for this appeal. Envelopes are still available in the church and at the Wardens' table. If you are able to help us get over the line, please put your envelope on either collection plate or give it to the Wardens. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Sunday 11 December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	7.30 and 9.30am Mass 11am Baptisms 11am Bridge P/C	Thursday 15 December	9.00am Mass 10.30am Catechists M/R 1.30pm Bridge. P/C .
Monday 12 December	9.00 Mass. 12noon Graduation Mass 5pm St Vincent de Paul M/R	Friday 16 December	9.00am Mass followed by Benediction 12noon Bowlers Christmas Lunch P/C 12noon SVdP Hamper Preparation 7pm Concert Rehearsal
Tuesday 13 December St Lucy	9.00 Mass. 10am Funeral Mass for Patrice O'Neill	Saturday 17 December	9.00am Mass. 4.45pm - 5.15pm Confessions. 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Wednesday 14 December St John of the Cross	8.00am Mass followed by Rosary. 9.00am Pastoral Care M/R 10.00am Playgroup. P/C 7.00pm Bridge. P/C 7.00pm Concert Rehearsal	Sunday 18 December 4th Sunday of Advent	7.30 and 9.30am Mass 7.30pm Christmas Concert

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.

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 Morning Mass. Matthew will be directing the Midnight Mass Choir and Geoff 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, come and experience this holy occasion and you won't get into trouble from your parents for staying up late!

Midnight Mass practice time: Tuesdays at 11.30 am and Thursdays 6.30 pm at the Church. You could go to any sessions, but minimum attendance is 3 sessions. Contact Matthew on 0421599079 or email: mhy.phillips@gmail.com

Christmas Morning practice time: Monday 12th, Thursday 15th, Monday 19th and Thursday 22nd, all at 11.30 am at the Church. Contact Geoff on 4739 4105 or email: bshalala@westnet.com.au



2017 Calendars

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter May, Patrice O'Neill, Daphne Grange (Joe's sister), Ida Watson-Will (friend of the Rivas family), 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: Gary Dennis, Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens, Tamara Shervashidze, Paul Edelbrock, Elma O'Shea, Henry Brockway, Malcolm King, Ann Lowe, Stephen Schaefer and Mark Broomhead.

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"To have, to love, and then to part is the..." *...saddest journey of the human heart"*

LEURA MEMORIAL GARDENS FUNERALS

St. Finbar's Parish News

PARISH CENSUS

Thanks to all parishioners who took part in our recent parish census. There are still census cards on the Wardens' table—if you have not yet completed a card for your family please do so today and put it on either collection plate or give it to the Wardens.



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.

RECONCILIATION This sacrament is available after each weekday Mass during Advent with an extra time at 10.30am on Friday 23rd December

5c DONATION BOX This will continue to remain in the Narthex until Christmas. Please continue to deposit your 5c and 10c or more. Whatever we raise during this season of Advent from those donations will go to help many disadvantaged children to meet their studies in the Missions. Advent/Christmas is the time to support the less fortunate of our society. **THANKS EVERYONE!**

WE ARE CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Please write your name on the sheet provided on the Wardens table. Thank you.

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.

Our Hospitality Ministry requires 2 new volunteers to help with our group on Sunday mornings after the 9.30am Mass. You would be rostered on once a month to help set up and serve tea and coffee. Please contact Lina in 0414 323 265.

CONSOLATION SINGERS are requested to attend Patrice O'Neill's Funeral Mass on Tuesday at 10.00am. Thank you.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK FOR DECEMBER


- * Bishop Vincent's Christmas Message
- * Emilio Martinez rising star with the Wanders
- * Parish Profile: St John's at Riverstone
- * Mercy reps gather with Bishop Vincent for close of Way of Mercy
- * News from our Catholic schools
- * German Catholic community still welcoming the stranger
- House of Welcome supporting asylum seekers & refugees

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH CHOIR


Presents Carols for Christmas on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm in the Church. Come along in preparation for the Christmas Season. Light supper will be served afterwards.

CAROLS IN THE PARK

Christmas Carols will be sung in Glenbrook Park (Lucasville Rd end) on Friday 16th December at 8pm. The Blue Mountains Concert Band will participate. All are welcome. Bring a rug or a chair. Organized by the Glenbrook/Blaxland Interchurch Group



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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: 17 and 18 December 2016

Liturgical Ministries	5.30 pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Rodney Moffitt	Paulina Grodzicki
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Andrew Teece	Martin Rogers
Junior Server	Volunteers please		Andy Rogers Alex Walker
Warden	Richard Mason	Rodney Moffitt	Frank Fitzpatrick
Welcomer	Paul Etherington		Peter & Trish Hurley
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	Maura Williams	Greg Rowe
2 nd Reading	Eileen Jones	Geraldine Lohan	Hurley Family
Intercession	Reg Moore	John De Mattia	Patricia Murnane
IT Operator	Yvonne Etherington	Margaret Power	George Grodzicki
Music	M. Taylor & Mary L		Ruth's Group
Presentation of the Gifts	Chris & Sandra O'Meara	Kay Whitty	Tom Torrance
Minister of Communion	Marie Hurley Pat Barrett John Killeen Jacqui Visser Gwen Cullinan Bernie Fisher Volunteer please	Terry & Helen Keogh Jemmy Brickwood Volunteer please	Therese Luczak Jean Di Nucci Annis Nilsson Irene Aligno Carmel Higgins Volunteer please Volunteer please
Children's Liturgy	Juliet		
Cashier	Geoff Shalala & Erika McNay		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Maggie Trevena & Irene & Bert Aligno		
Church Care	Julie Fehon, Tania Walker, Janette Ankers, Lynda Flavell & Kylie Lane		
Garden Club	<u>Team 1</u> : Tony Doyle, Helen Keogh, Neil Evans & Annissa Nilsson		



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