

# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
**17 and 18 December 2016**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A**

Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.



You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments

in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

*Reflection by Fr Michael Tate*

## MUSIC AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 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

<b>Sunday</b> <b>18 December</b> 4th Sunday of Advent	<b>7.30 and 9.30am Mass</b> <b>7.30pm Christmas Concert</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>22 December</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> <b>1.30pm Bridge. P/C</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>19 December</b>	9.00am Fun Singers. <u><b>No 9.00 Mass.</b></u> <b>10.00 Memorial Mass for Peter May.</b> <b>7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation At Emu Plains Parish.</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>23 December</b>	<b>9.00am Mass followed by Benediction</b> <b>10.30am Extra time for Reconciliation</b> <b>7.00pm onwards for Reconciliation</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>20 December</b>	<u><b>No 9.00 Mass.</b></u> <b>10.00 Funeral Mass for Coral Darr.</b>	<i>Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve</i> <b>9.00am Mass</b>  <b>7.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas.</b> <b>Midnight Mass.</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>21 December</b>	<b>8.00am Mass followed by Rosary.</b> <b>10.00am Playgroup. P/C</b> <b>7.00pm Bridge. P/C</b>	<i>Sunday 25 December Christmas Day</i> <b>8.30am Mass (only)</b>	

**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

## 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 and after 7.00pm on Friday 23rd December.

## ***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.

**Due to the lack of attendance last Thursday evening for the Midnight Mass practice, it is now cancelled.**

**Please note the revised practice time as per below**

**Midnight Mass practice time:** every **Wednesday** at 11.30 am at the Church until Christmas. Attendance to all remaining practice sessions is now compulsory otherwise the quality of the choir will be compromised. Contact Matthew on 0421599079 or email:

[mhy.phillips@gmail.com](mailto:mhy.phillips@gmail.com)

**Christmas Morning practice time:** 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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:** Coral Darr, 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:** Phil O'Donoghoe, 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:** James Gapps, Marjorie Doyle, Peg Gibson, Venita Bronlow, Phyllis Helm, Brian Jenkins, Monica Keating, Angela Hector, Shirley Tregillgas Alice Nolan, Madeleine Oxley, Violet Clements, Kathleen Macbeth, Colleen Pederson,

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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

## **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.

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS** are available. Please receive Communion from Fr Jolly and advise him that you need a low gluten host.

## **WE ARE CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES:**

We still have numerous vacancies for positions at the Vigil, Midnight and 8.30am Masses for Christmas.

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

**FUN SINGERS** are reminded to bring their Christmas folder on Monday. We will meet at the Church at 9.00am

**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!**

## **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.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**SYNOD.** What is it? The word comes from two Greek words, "syn" meaning "together" and "hodos" meaning "a way, road". So "synod" means "together on the road", thus stressing that Christians meet and discuss things while pilgrims or travellers here on earth. The word is used for **large church meetings** of bishops, or bishops and laity.

## **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.




## **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

## **CATHOLIC OUTLOOK FOR DECEMBER**

- \* Bishop Vincent's Christmas Message
  - \* Emilio Martinez rising star with the Wanderers
  - \* 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



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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

## CHRISTMAS ROSTER 2016

Liturgical Ministries	Vigil Mass at 7.00 pm	Midnight at Mass	Mass at 8.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McMahon	Peter McMahon	Rodney Moffitt
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Peter McMahon	
Thurifier	N/A	Anaru Veitch	N/A
Junior Server	Billy Instance Riley & Amie Farrell	Volunteers please (Boat)	Anna Santoro Mitchell Matthew
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading			
Intercession	Joanne Stubbs		
IT			
Wardens		Steve Newton	Allan Jones Rodney Moffitt
Presentation of the Gifts			Rivas family
Minister of Communion	(9) Jean Di Nucci Sue McGrath	(7) Bernie Fisher Sybil Mason Sandra O'Meara Chris O'Meara Lorraine Brown Gwen Cullinan Huia Kingi	(7) Allan Jones Rodney Moffitt Margaret Rivas
Cashier	Margaret Christensen and Ruth Gott		
Hospitality	Gwen Parker, Bev Palmer & Tom Torrance		
Church Care	Veronica Clune, Fran Isaksen & St Finbar's Playgroup		



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