

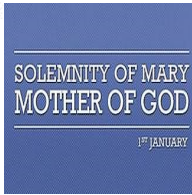
The Barra

31 December & 1 January 2017

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27; Ps 66; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: The Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.



The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the

angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our Abba. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace.

The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

Sunday	1 January	7.30am & 9.30am Masses	
Monday <i>Sts Basil the Great & Gregory</i>	2 January	9.00am Mass	<i>Epiphany Pilgrimage. P/C</i>
Tuesday	3 January	9.00am Mass	<i>Epiphany Pilgrimage. P/C 7.30pm Baptism Preparation. M/R</i>
Wednesday	4 January	8.00am Mass	<i>9.30am Playgroup. P/C 7.00pm Bridge</i>
Thursday	5 January	9.00am Mass	<i>1.30pm Bridge</i>
Friday	6 January	9.00am Mass	<i>1.00pm Bowls</i>
Saturday	7 January Reconciliation	9.00am Mass 4.45pm to 5.15pm 5.30pm Mass	
Sunday	8 January	7.30am & 9.30am Masses	The Epiphany of the Lord 11.00am Baptisms.

2016 PARISH AUDIT In accordance with Diocesan regulations, the parish accounts were formally audited during the year. The Auditors reported to Fr Jolly: "We commend you on your outstanding upkeep of the parish's books and records". The Auditors also noted that the parish had increased its operating surplus due mainly to decreasing our operating expenses by about 16%. This means we will have more money we can put towards paying off the parish debt.

About 75% of our monthly debt repayment is now paying off the principal and only 25% is interest. This interest amount will continue to fall as we pay more off the principal, so the sooner we can do this the sooner the parish will be debt free.

URGENT REQUEST: we need a **Warden** for the 1st Sunday of the month and a **Sacristan** for the 3rd Sunday of the month. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office.

DURING JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY, Fr Jolly will be in India for his annual holidays so we welcome Fr Robert Anderson for our weekend Masses. Please note that all **weekday Masses are cancelled for period 10 Jan.—17 Feb. inclusive** with exception of Australia Day when Mass will be celebrated at 12.00noon.

FRESH PERSPECTIVES: Conversation on "The Heart of Christianity" by M. Borg. Meets 4th Thursday of each month (earlier this January). Next meeting, 19 January, 7:30 pm. Inquiries: Jim Potts 47352076.

ST FINBAR'S PARISH will be hosting a Men's Breakfast in late February or early March in the Parish Hall. It will be on a Saturday morning from 7.30am to 9.00am. Date to be advised. All men are invited to attend, and more details will follow in the New Year.

*We wish all our parishioners and visitors a happy New Year
and ask that God will bless you in 2017*

MASS TIMES AT LOCAL PARISHES

<u>EMU PLAINS</u>	<u>SPRINGWOOD</u>	<u>PENRITH</u>
MONDAY @ 9.00AM <u>NO TUESDAY MASS</u> WEDNESDAY @ 9.00AM THURSDAY @ 9.00AM FRIDAY @ 9.00AM SATURDAY @ 9.00AM	MONDAY @ 9.30AM TUESDAY @ 9.30AM WEDNESDAY @ 9.30AM <u>NO THURSAY MASS</u> FRIDAY @ 9.30AM <u>NO SATURDAY MORNING MASS</u>	MONDAY @ 9.30AM TUESDAY @ 9.30AM WEDNESDAY @ 9.30AM THURSDAY @ 9.30AM FRIDAY @ 12.00 NOON SATURDAY @ 9.00AM

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
 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773

Parish School:

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Phone: 0404 010997

Web: www.stfinbars.org.au

Roster for 7 and 8 January 2017

Liturgical Ministries	5.30 pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	John Verhoeven	Rodney Moffitt	Deb Lawrence
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Deb Lawrence
Junior Server	Patrick, Alex & Johnny McLoughlin		Hannah Stanford Brendan Khnouf
Warden	Ken Schneiders Chris O'Meara	Rodney Moffitt	Steve Newton
Welcomer	Margaret Moore		Suzanne McGrath
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	Mary Creenaune	Carmel Higgins
2 nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Andrew Teece	Volunteer
Intercession	Margaret Moore	Annie Teece	Liz O'Callaghan
I.T Operator	Kylie Mills	Ellen Teece	Joseph Marceau
Musician	No Hymns		No Hymns
Presentation of the Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	David & Diane Shatford	Dorothea Walsh Margaret Christensen
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	School holidays		
Cashier	Joe Grange and Ken Townsend		
Hospitality	Anne King, Darren & Liz Dukes & Grace Buckley		
Church Care	Catherine Marceau, Jane Lennon, Sally Doyle, Christyna Lloyd, Nicole Young & Beth Killeen		