

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
11th and 12th March 2017
Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

Gen 12:1-4; Ps 32; 2Tim 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS:

The blessings upon which we meditate today are undeserved gifts from God. They were not earned. The graciousness of God transforms us in such a way as to effect new beginnings. It can be seen in the promises made to Abram. He leaves the past behind and moves into a new future. It can be seen in the psalm response. The Lord delivers us from death and inspires us to look to the future. It can be seen in the reading from 2 Timothy. Through Christ Jesus we are called to a new life of holiness; we escape the fetters of death and are brought into the freedom of the resurrection. We see it in the gospel, a glimpse into the future glory of Jesus which, through grace, we will be able to share.

Lent is a time of new beginnings which find their origin in the abundant blessings of God.

The ultimate blessing of God is Jesus himself. As Abram was called to be the source of blessing for all others, as Peter, James and John were chosen to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, so today we too are invited to look to Jesus for inspiration during this holy season. Paul speaks of the salvation that Jesus brings as having come, not because of any works of righteousness that we might have performed, but because of the grace of God. Once again the Lenten readings focus on the merciful action of God in our lives, and in the end they point to Jesus. *Dianne Bergant*



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2017: **"learning connected".**

This year from 5-11 March all 79 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The theme for the Diocese is "Learning connected". This theme builds on a key focus for Pope Francis in the recent encyclical *Laudato Si'*, "Everything's

Connected". Pope Francis is calling on all Catholic communities, including schools, to recognise these connections. Catholic Schools Week strengthens

connections between all those who have a stake in our schools—students, staff, families, priests, parishioners and members of the wider community—by showcasing our activities and actions.

During Catholic Schools week, schools will be reaching out to their communities and showcasing connectedness. The Diocese of Parramatta is located in one of the fastest growing areas of New South Wales, with more than 43 000 students are enrolled in local Catholic schools. The Diocese is West of Sydney and reaches from Dundas Valley, West to Katoomba, South to Luddenham and North to Richmond.

Please take the time after Mass to look at some of our beautiful work in the Narthex.

Sunday 12 March 2nd Sunday of Lent. Year A	7.30am and 9.30am Masses 11.00am Baptisms	Thursday 16 March	10.00am Healing Mass and Morning Tea 1.30pm Bridge. P/C 7.30pm Blue Labyrinth Dancers. P/C
Monday 13 March	9.00am Mass 5.30pm St V de P meeting M/R 7.30pm Sacramental meeting P/C	Friday 17 March St Patrick	9.00am Mass & Benediction 1.00pm Bowlers. P/C
Tuesday 14 March	9.00am Mass. 7.30pm Pastoral Council M/R	Saturday 18 March	9.00am Mass 4.45pm- 5.15pm Reconciliation 5.30pm Vigil Mass 7.30pm Bush School Fundraiser
Wednesday 15 March	8:00am Mass 9.30am Playgroup. P/C 11.30am Cantible. Church 7.00pm Bridge. P/C and M/R	Sunday 19 March 3rd Sunday of Lent. Year A	7.30am and 9.30am Masses 6.00pm Youth Mass.

WELCOME all visitors to our church today. We extend our 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

PRAYERFUL SILENCE IN THE CHURCH

There have been a number of parishioners who have commented on the fact that people do not show sufficient respect for the Blessed Sacrament when they enter the church.

It would be appreciated if parishioners did their talking outside the church, and that once they enter the church they maintain a prayerful silence in the presence of the Lord.

Likewise, after Mass, be mindful of those wanting to continue in prayer and wait until you are outside the church before engaging in conversations.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

PROJECT COMPASSION- Love your Neighbour

Project Compassion Lenten envelopes and boxes are now available in the church Narthex. You are invited to take home an envelope or a box and fill it during Lent as a means of performing some sacrifice for 'your neighbour' during the penitential season. Please return them to the church on either Palm Sunday or Holy Thursday so they can be processed to the altar during Holy Thursday Mass as part of the parish offerings.

FOUND A car key was found last Sunday after Mass. If it is yours, please ring the parish office to describe the key.

THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY VACANCIES AT THE 9:30AM AM MASS ARE IN NEED OF YOUR HELP:

- PIETY STALL needs one or two helpers. Please contact Noreen on 4739 8882 and she will be happy to assist you to settle in and help you wherever possible.
- SACRISTANS are needed. 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.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND: The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal raises necessary funds that support outreach services to people across Western Sydney.

Over the last two weekends we held the second of our three DWF appeals for this financial year. Our quota for this appeal is \$7703. **We have only been able to raise \$5779 so far. We are still nearly \$2000 short of our quota.** If you can help, please give generously to sustain these good works of mercy. All deductions over \$2 are tax deductible. Please use one of the envelopes provided and drop it onto either collection plate or give it directly to one of the wardens.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED: Ben Gibson, Charlie Buda, Dr. Patrick Cregan, Mary Ryan, Phil O'Donoghoe, Robert Pope (Jean di Nucci's father), Coral Darr, Peter May, Patrice O'Neill, Betty Grange, Daphne Grange (Joe's sister), Annette Hennessy, John Mulholland and Ken Glover.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS: Fr Maurice McNamara, Lyn Downes, Patricia Young, Ellen Moffitt, Pat Barrett, John Brown, Jane Bloor, Ena Baker, Terry Stevens, Jeff Dean, Madge Boylan, Grant Madden, Robert Toirkens, Stan Currey, Pam Clyne, Tony & Jacqui Visser, Jan Smith, Emma Gleeson, John Camilleri, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Carmel Quilty Malone, John Roebuck, Colleen Nolan, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Shirley Glover and Cliff McHardy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Harry Ragen, James Cottier, Vicki Noble, Catherine Smith, Robert Bunda, Anthony Clyne, John Everett, Tadeusz Opiel, Ruben Stanford, Dorothea Egan, May Hurry, Michael Cloran, John Burrett, Bill Taylor, Catherine McColl and Lance Baker.

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LEURA MEMORIAL GARDENS FUNERALS

St. Finbar's News

VARIETY CONCERT FOR CAMBODIA:

A wonderful night of music, song and dance will be held in our Parish hall on Saturday 18 March, commencing at 7.30pm. Previous concerts have been greatly enjoyed by our enthusiastic audiences. Cost is \$20 pp, \$40 per family (concessions available). Supper is provided. To book phone Doug on 0403303943 or online <http://tinyurl.com/z9utmml>. Tickets are available at the door - see flyer in the Narthex.

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2017 INFORMATION

EVENING : On **Monday 13th 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. *Children need not attend.*

OUR BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS:

Thank you to all who have continued giving their time looking after our beautiful gardens and lawns. However we have lost a few parishioners, due to other commitments and moving to different suburbs. Would you be willing to help out about 4 times a year??? Please contact the Parish Office for more information .

ST PATRICK'S DAY FAMILY FESTIVAL, organised by the Life, Marriage & Family Office will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2-5pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral Precinct, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. The Irish themed event will include live entertainment, food, rides for all ages and a historical display about the contribution the Irish have made to our Diocese. The event will also raise awareness about the World Meeting of Families taking place in Dublin next year and to raise funds for families to be able to attend. All are welcome!

ST FINBAR'S PRIMARY SCHOOL GLENBROOK

St Finbar's Primary School Glenbrook provides a Catholic Education for children in Years Kinder to Year 6. We are enrolling now for 2018. All considering enrolment are invited to contact the school office on 4739 1796.


A MESSAGE FROM JOHN CAMILLERI:

I would like express my sincere thanks for all the prayers, support and best wishes that I have received during my illness from Fr Jolly, parishioners and friends. I am progressing well but still require some support and prayers. God bless, John Camilleri.


CARING FOR CARERS morning tea TUESDAY 21st MARCH 10am - 12noon. St Finbars Parish Centre. Our last gathering in February was productive, some sewing for the 'less fortunate' choosing from a wonderful array of cut-outs, as well as patchwork, knitting and craft for those interested in pursuing these activities, a great start for the year. This group is open to anyone who would benefit from a cuppa, chat and maybe one of the activities For more information please contact Kath 47392651 or ktierney@bigpond.net.au

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK:

Final print edition of Catholic Outlook – March 2017
After 19 years, the print edition of *Catholic Outlook* (the official publication for the Diocese of Parramatta) will cease publication with March 2017 being the final issue. *Catholic Outlook* will continue publishing news and events online at www.catholicoutlook.org and through the Diocese of Parramatta's social media channels. A sincere thank you to readers and all those who have worked on publishing *Catholic Outlook* over the years. Thanks also to the generous advertisers, school and parish communities which have helped keep Catholics in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains informed of what is happening in the Church.



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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

ROSTER FOR 18th & 19th MARCH

Liturgical Ministries	5.30 pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Rodney Moffitt	Volunteer please
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Andrew Teece	Martin Rogers
Junior Server	Joshua Toutounji Dominic Scanlan		Andy Rogers Alex Walker
Warden	Richard Mason	Rodney Moffitt	Frank Fitzpatrick
Welcomer	Paul Etherington		Peter & Trish Hurley
1 st Reading	Ralph Maples	Ann Keating	Peter or Trish Hurley
2 nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Elizabeth Konza	Kylie Lane
Intercession	Reg Moore	John Isaksen	Frank Fitzpatrick
IT Operator	Yvonne Etherington	Ralph Maples	Sean Farrell
Music	Cantible		Ruth's group
Presentation of the Gifts	Chris & Sandra O'Meara	Kay Whitty	Kathleen Schneiders & family
Minister of Communion	Marie Hurley John Killeen Jacqui Visser Gwen Cullinan Bernie Fisher Volunteer please Volunteer please	Terry & Helen Keogh Jemmy Brickwood Volunteer Please	Therese Luczak Jean Di Nucci Annissa Nilsson Irene Aligno Carmel Higgins Volunteer please Volunteer please
Children's Liturgy	Elizabeth		
Cashier	Joe Grange & Ken Townsend		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Maggie Trevena and Vicki Rendes		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie, Huia Kingi & Jessica Doherty		



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