

# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
**25th and 26th March 2017**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A**  
*1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ps 22; Ehp 5:8-14; John 9: 1-41*

## REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS:

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person.

God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses.

God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God.

Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.



By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure?

Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

*Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS*



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FINISHES NEXT WEEKEND (1ST APRIL). PLEASE TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT.**

<b>Sunday</b> <b>26 March</b> <b>4th Sunday of</b> <b>Lent. Year A</b>	<b>7.30am and 9.30am Masses.</b> <b>11.00am Baptisms.</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>30 March</b>	<b>9.00am Mass.</b> <b>1.30pm Bridge. P/C</b> <b>7.30pm Blue Labyrinth Dancers. P/C</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>27 March</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> <b>5.00pm SVDP. M/R</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>31 March</b>	<b>9.00am Mass &amp; Benediction</b> <b>1.00pm Bowlers. P/C</b> <b>4.00pm School Disco. P/C</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>28 March</b>	<b>9.00am Mass.</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>1 April</b>	<b>9.00am Mass.</b> <b>3.00pm Parents Prayer Group. M/R and P/C</b> <b>4.45pm- 5.15pm Reconciliation</b> <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>29 March</b>	<b>8:00am Mass followed by Rosary.</b> <b>9.30am Playgroup. P/C</b> <b>11.30am Cantabile. Church.</b> <b>6.45pm Bridge M/R</b> <b>7.00pm Bridge. P/C</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>2 April</b> <b>5th Sunday of</b> <b>Lent. Year A</b>	<b>7.30am and 9.30am Masses</b> <b>6.00pm Youth Mass.</b> <b>7.30pm Senior Youth Group. P/C</b>

**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



In a small town in Vietnam, a severe disability kept young Nguyet behind closed doors. Constrained by the high demands of her condition, her parents were also isolated from their neighbours. There is a high level of disability in Vietnam, particularly as a legacy of war, but little support for families whose children have disabilities. People with disability have poorer health outcomes, lower educational achievements, lower economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disability. The future seemed bleak for the whole family, until Nguyet's family became participants in a program supported by Caritas Australia. A neighbour kindly introduced the family to the Capacity Building for Parent Associations Supporting Children with Disabilities program, which has given them support on several levels.

## PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES ARE NOW IN THE NARTHEX.

### Adults Prayer Group- "Living the Faith"

Is back on again and this year we will be studying the lives of the Saints with 2-3 guest speakers also coming and giving their personal story of conversion/ Living the Faith. The first meeting will be on Saturday 1 April 2017 3:00pm-4:30pm at St Finbars Hall, then from May, will be held on the second Saturday of every month from 3pm-4:30pm. Children are also very welcome and babysitting is provided in the adjacent church hall. Please contact Annemaree on 0412 942 299 for more information.

## DISCERNMENT AFTERNOON FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE: 2 APRIL

Single men and married couples aged 35-55 who are interested in the ordained ministry of the permanent deacon are invited to a discernment afternoon to meet the permanent diaconate vocations team. The discernment program consists of five sessions and each session deals with a different aspect of the permanent diaconate. The session on Sunday 2 April is the start of the 2017 program. From 3.00pm-5.00pm at St Anthony of Padua Parish, 27 Aurelia Street, Toongabbie. Inquiries to Deacon James [deacon@stanthonyschurch.org.au](mailto:deacon@stanthonyschurch.org.au) or Deacon Tan [deacontan@john23rd.org.au](mailto:deacontan@john23rd.org.au)

### A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VINCENT LONG:

*Sending people can be more important than sending money.*

Communities in Asia, the Pacific and Africa are looking to provide mentoring opportunities for local personnel and improve processes and procedures for organisations vital to reducing poverty. To ensure sustainable development they prefer those willing to come for two years, but accept that some are only available for 12 months. If you are an experienced professional, business or trades person, in any area, but especially education, please consider volunteering with Palms Australia.

#### Information Sessions:

**Sat 1 April BLACKTOWN**  
Max Webber Library  
10:30am to 12pm

**Thurs 6 April SYDNEY**  
Aquinas Academy  
5:45pm to 7:45pm

RSVP [joey@palms.org.au](mailto:joey@palms.org.au) or call 0431 995 058

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:** Jackie George Perkins, Mary Ann Manalili, 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, Emma Gleeson Tony & Jacqui Visser, Jan Smith, 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 ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Patrick Mungovan, Colin Gott, Gareth Hogan, Jean Blencowe, Rosemond Coughlan, Cecil Luczak and Harold Gapps.

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

**LEURA MEMORIAL GARDENS FUNERALS**

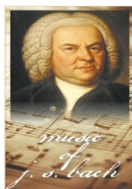
# St. Finbar's News

## POPE FRANCIS' WORDS:

### **Do you want to fast this Lent?**

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

### GOOD FRIDAY – AT ST FINBAR'S



### QUIET MEDITATION AT THE END OF THE DAY.

The traditional candlelight presentation of music of J. S. Bach, complemented by sacred readings from the Passion of Christ, will once again be held at 7.30pm on Good Friday evening in the church. The Blue Mountains Chorale conducted by Robert Ampt, will sing poignant excerpts from St. John's Passion and all will be encouraged to participate in moving congregational hymns accompanied by organ. There will be a retiring collection. Suggested donation \$15 and \$10 concession.

**RETIREMENT NEWS:** I am stepping down from my position as Parish Secretary at St Finbar's on July 14. I have loved this job and the fabulous people I have worked with. After more than 12 years, I believe it is time to retire. As I have given Fr Jolly 4 months' notice I will be available to help the new secretary settle into the position. I'll be treating myself to a sabbatical, including extended trips with my husband overseas. Then, we'll see what's next. — and thanks to everyone who has joined me on this wonderful ride. Margaret Rivas

For more information regarding the vacant position please go to the Diocese of Parramatta website [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org) positions vacant.

### 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.

### EASTER MINISTERS WANTED

There is a list of the Easter ceremonies on the notice board in the Narthex.

Parishioners are invited to place their names against any ministry that has vacancies for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Normal rosters will apply on Easter Sunday.


### SINGERS NEEDED FOR THE EASTER VIGIL!

Practices are on every Wednesday at 11:30 am in the Church. For enquiries, please contact me at [mhy.phillips@gmail.com](mailto:mhy.phillips@gmail.com) or 4739 5782.


Thank you. Matthew.

### VARIETY CONCERT FOR CAMBODIA:

The Concert for the Bush school on Saturday 18 March was well attended, in spite of the rain, and raised nearly \$4000. Thank you to our parishioners who attended, or otherwise supported us, and to our hard working committee. Doug Frewer.



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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 1 AND 2 APRIL 2017

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McMahon	Rodney Moffitt	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Andrew Teece	Garry Pursehouse
Junior Server	Patrick, Alex & Johnny McLoughlin		Hannah Stanford Brendan Khnouf
Warden	Vince Dobson Allan Jones Lorraine Brown	Rodney Moffitt	Volunteer please
Welcomer	Carmel Dobson		Lukas & Kristina Rajnoch
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Gerard Egan	Mary Creenaune	Erin Kelly
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Katy Ferris	Andrew Teece	Pearse Cremin
Intercession	Reg Moore	Annie Teece	Steve Newton
I.T Operator	Kylie Miles	Elizabeth Konza	Jim McLoughlin
Musician	Finbarr Choir		Jenny & Anne
Presentation of the Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Ray & Ann Keating	Dorothea Walsh & Margaret Christensen
Minister of Communion	Beth Gibbeson John Verhoeven Noreen Taylor Sandra O'Meara Chris O'Meara Reg Moore Volunteer please	Margaret Dickson Ian Dickson Colleen Fuller Volunteer please	Stephen Brown Wendy Brown Sue McGrath Bernie Fisher Volunteer please Volunteer please Volunteer please
Children's Liturgy	Pia		
Cashier	Margaret Christensen & Ruth Gott		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Tom Torrance & Vicky Ang		
Church Care	Natalie Platt, Rebecca Southern & Year 6 from School		



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