



# The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

25th Sunday in Ordinary time Year A

23 and 24 September 2017

Is 55:6-9; Ps 144; Phil 1:20-24,27; M 20:1-16

## Reflection on the Gospel

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an



everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

*Reflection by Greg Sunter*

**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.

<b>Sunday</b> <b>24 September</b> <b>25th Sunday in</b> <b>Ordinary time</b> <b>Year A</b>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 11.00am Baptisms 1.30pm Pastoral Care Thank you afternoon tea	<b>Thursday</b> <b>28 September</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> 1.30pm Bridge. P/C 7.30pm Blue Labyrinth Dancers
<b>Monday</b> <b>25 September</b>	<b>9.00am Mass.</b> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R	<b>Friday</b> <b>29 September</b> <i>Sts Michael,</i> <i>Gabriel, Raphael</i> <i>Archangels</i>	<b>9.00am Mass only</b> 1.00 pm Bowlers. P/C
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>26 September</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>30 September</b> <i>St. Jerome</i>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> <b>4.45pm- 5.15pm Reconciliation</b> <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>27 September</b> <i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	<b>8.00am Mass followed by</b> <b>Rosary.</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 11.30am Cantabile. Church. 7.00pm Bridge P/C	<b>Sunday</b> <b>1 October</b> <b>26th Sunday in</b> <b>Ordinary time</b> <b>Year A</b>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> 7.00pm Senior Youth Group

# St. Finbar's Parish News

## **TRIVIA NIGHT**

We appreciate all those who were involved in the preparation and running of the Trivia Night. It was a joyful, fun filled and community-building evening and the Parish was able to raise nearly \$2800 for the purpose of putting in the Solar Batteries, and these will be installed as soon as the rest of the money becomes available. A special thanks to everyone specially to Martin & Lyndal Rogers, Janette Ankers, Cheryl Kersivien, Kylie Lane, Beth Gibbeson, Maire Griffin and Ruth Gott.

**ST FINBARS PASTORAL CARE TEAM INVITES YOU TO AFTERNOON TEA** on this Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> September at 1:30pm. This is an opportunity to come together and celebrate all our ministries. Let's gather and celebrate St Finbar's Day. Everyone is welcome. More information Margaret Richards 47396470.

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO MARRIAGE ACT.** The Church views marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man. Marriage is also a fundamental institution for all societies because of its importance in uniting spouses as potential parents and in providing for the upbringing of their children. It has therefore been understood as the union of a man and a woman in all cultures and religions until very recent times and is still so defined in international law and the law of most nations. To insist that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman is not a criticism of other kinds of relationships. By recognising this particular type of relationship our community and its marriage laws do not unjustly discriminate against other relationships: rather, our community and its laws recognize the essential connections between male-female bonding and child-bearing, and between children and their natural parents. Taken from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website: <https://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite>

**Catholic Education-Diocese of Parramatta.** HIGH SUPPORT NEEDS CLASSES KIRINARI, Xavier College, Llandilo WIYANGA, St Patrick's Marist College Dundas are accepting enrolments. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta provides an inclusive education for students, recognising that some students with a moderate intellectual disability may need additional support. High support needs classes provide students with an alternate platform that addresses their learning needs. Direct enquiries to Alma George, Manager Diverse Learning Needs on 0407233622/Alma.George@parra.catholic.edu.au.

**SHARING OUR FAITH** Join our introductory course in sharing our faith with children – a joyful and rewarding ministry—at Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains Mondays, 9.30am-2.30pm. Enquiries Beth 47398577.

Pat Psaila is asking on behalf of Sister Anne of the Sisters Of Charity if once again you can help the Farmers' Wives. There will be a box in the church foyer for your donations for the next few weeks. Thank you for your generosity.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:** Tony Visser, Peter Bryant, Emma Gleeson, Baby Valentina Twyford, Denise Keys (Margaret & Michael Rivas Friend) and Maureen Griffin (Hughie Griffin Sister in Law)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:** Ken Moore, Mary Ann Manalili, Lyn Downes, Ellen Moffitt, Jane Bloor, Ena Baker, Terry Stevens, Jeff Dean, Grant Madden, Stan Currey, Pam Clyne, Jacqui Visser, Jan Smith, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Carmel Quilty Malone, John Roebuck, Colleen Nolan, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Shirley Glover, Little Majella Anne Bell and Cliff McHardy.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Christopher McNamara, Mary Heaver, Grace Chambers, Rock Cunningham, Mary O'Connor, Kathleen Rowe, Patricia Nagle, Thelma Dwyer, Thomas Beattie, Paul Morgan, Francis Luland, Anthony Cunningham, Rodney Malvey and Kenneth Kelly.

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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

Dear fellow Parishioners,  
God has blessed each one of us with the gift of a beautiful church in Glenbrook, well built and attractive with its wooden ceiling. Like our home which need timely repairs, repainting etc to protect it from the elements, we also need to protect our church which is our spiritual home. It is in urgent need of repairs as some of the wooden ceiling and skirting boards of the church are faded, worn off and soon will be damaged due to age and exposure. The damage is slowly creeping into the timber. If we don't act now, it will cost a lot more for these repairs and painting works in the near future. The parish, again through its very tight and well budgeted efforts, has

been able to save around \$15,000 towards this project. We need another \$17,000 to do the minimum works, including to fix the main door which has become hard to close. Thus the finance committee, together with our Parish Priest, request your immediate Financial assistance in this matter. Whatever you can contribute according to your ability, big or small, will be appreciated. Please drop them in the Parish Office or give to the Wardens at the table, to Peter or to Fr. Jolly, or you may directly go to the Parish web site and donate using your credit card (use "other billing code"). Thanks everyone for assisting to maintain our spiritual home.

Parish Finance Committee

## Parish Finance Committee Report

The Parish expenses and income statements for the last two months were presented at the Committee's recent meeting. We discussed the need for doing the immediate urgent repair work to the church and in principle this was approved. The Parish Finance Committee decided to approach the wider Parish community with this need in mind and believes the generosity and the good will of our community will result in the money being found to fund the work. (see separate letter). The Committee felt very happy about the great effort we have made in reducing our Parish debt from \$515,000 to \$240,000 within the last 2 and half years. A big thanks to everyone. We also feel that we need to continue paying the \$4334 we pay every month as our loan repayment, and to do more when we can, so that we can soon be debt free. Then we can use our future resources for more community building and evangelization and youth formation.

**Parish Advisory Committee Report** A few emails received about different issues including general maintenance outside and inside the church ; these things were discussed.

**School Report:**

1. Ben Ticehurst appointed as the new Deputy Principal.
2. Father's day breakfast was very successful, a large number attended.
3. New school activity—Amazing Race
4. Cutting down some trees in the playground to ensure kids safety.
5. Working on connecting the school parents with the Parish by attending more Masses and being more involved.

**Parish Report:**

1. Enrolment increased in the school over the last two years.
1. Sacramental program was a success. We had 54 children going through the Confirmation Program this year. A special thanks to Jim, Julie-Ann and Claire.
2. Youth group is growing & more youth are joining.
3. About 10 Youth from our Parish will be attending the upcoming Catholic Youth Festival.
4. Catechists will start going to Blaxland High next term on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
5. The Young Family group meeting is going well.
6. Thanks John De Mattia and Carl Moll for another successful Men's Breakfast. Next one will be on the 11/11/2017.
7. Talked about having a women's retreat with Ann O'Connor organising it.
8. A new Liturgy Committee to be formed with Terry Keogh to head it and Ann O'Connor, Claire Brown, Margaret Rivas, Natalie Platt, Julie-Ann McLoughlin, Joanne Stubbs and Gabrielle Lynch to be invited to be members of this Committee.
9. Decided to repair and paint the ceiling outside the church and fix the leakage in the roof at the same time. Three quotes were obtained.
10. The Solar Batteries will be installed as soon as the money is found.
11. The Parish will have a Christmas Party on the 3rd of December after the 9.30 Mass. We will have a sausage sizzle and morning tea, and invite the school to join us.
12. Formation workshops for people who are involved with the different ministries to start next year.

**General Business:** An issue was raised about having the Bishop coming for the Confirmation night instead of sending a Representative.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on the 14/11/2017

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## PARISH INFORMATION

### Sacraments

Confessions: Sat 4.45-5.15pm  
Baptisms: By Appointment  
Weddings: By Appointment

**Office Hours:** 9.30am - 3.00pm

Monday to 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 541 637

**Secretary:** Juliana Khnouf

E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

**Admin:** Peter McMahon

E-mail: admin@stfinbars.org.au

Phone: 0404 010 997

**Web:** www.stfinbars.org.au

**Parish School:** Principal Mrs Donna McFadzean

Phone: 4724 3600

## ROSTER FOR 30 September AND 1 October 2017

Liturgical Ministries	5.30 pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Peter McMahon	Rodney Moffitt	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Peter McMahon	Carl Moll	Garry Pursehouse
Junior Server	Patrick, Alex & Johnny McLoughlin		Hanna Stanford
Warden	Vince Dobson & Allan Jones	Rodney Moffitt	Volunteer Please
Welcomer	Carmel Dobson		Lukas & Kristina Rainoch
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
IT Operator	Bernadette Shalala	Elizabeth Konza	Sean Farrell
Music	Finbarr Choir		J Long & A Hobbs
Presentation of the Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Ann & Ray Keating	Dorothea Walsh & Margaret Christensen
Minister of Communion	Beth Gibbeson John Verhoeven Noreen Taylor Sandra O'Meara Reg Moore Natasha Mills Chris O'Meara	Margaret Dickson Ian Dickson Colleen Fuller Volunteer Please	Stephen Brown Wendy Brown Sue McGrath Bernie Fisher Kylie Mills Volunteer Please Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	School Holiday		
Cashier	Margaret Christensen & Ruth Gott		
Hospitality	Lina Wiecek, Tom Torrance, Vicky Ang, Lucie Da Graca Twyford		
Church Care	Julie Fehon, Tania Walker, Janette Ankers, Lynda Favell & Kylie Lane		
Garden Club	Kevin Debeck, Rob Lennon, Rodney Moffitt, Michael Lloyd		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	Carmel Higgins		



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