

The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR B

16th & 17th December 2017

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday 17 December <i>Third Sunday of Advent Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 7.30pm Christmas Concert
Monday 18 December	9.00am Mass 9.00am Fun Singers 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R 7.30pm Combined 2nd Rite of Reconciliation - Emu Plains
Tuesday 19 December	9.00am Mass
Wednesday 20 December	8.00am Mass followed by Rosary 11.30am Cantabile. Church. 7.00pm Bridge P/C
Thursday 21 December	9.00am Mass <i>No Healing Mass this month.</i> 1.30pm Bridge. P/C
Friday 22 December	9.00am Mass followed by Benediction 10.00am Christmas Reconciliation 11.30 Choir Practice 1.30 Bowlers P/C
Saturday 23 December	9.00am Mass 11.30 Te Deum's Choir Practice 4.00pm– 5.15pm Christmas Reconciliation 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 24 December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 7.00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 12.00am Midnight Mass

Reflection on the Gospel

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human



beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb. We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We should pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

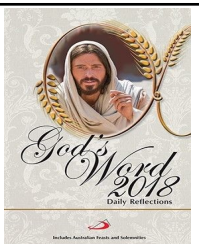
Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS. All children are invited to join in the celebration of the Christmas Vigil Mass in a special way by coming dressed as a shepherd or angel.

CHRISTMAS ROSTER. All qualified parishioners are invited to nominate themselves for the Liturgical Roles at one of our three Christmas Masses. There is a blank roster on the Wall of the Narthex near the Wardens' table. Please write your name against any ministry vacancy that you can fill. Thank you

GOD'S WORD 2018 REFLECTIONS

BOOK. The Daily readings and reflection book is available for sale this weekend from the Piety Stall. It Costs \$13 each with the saving of \$3/book. It can be a great Christmas gift.



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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. Readings for the Vigil

Midnight Mass. Readings for the night.

Monday morning (Christmas Day) 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 the 18th of December at 7.30pm. We have joined with Emu Plains Parish for this event. All are welcome. Glenbrook Reconciliation is on Friday the 22nd of December from 10am to 11am and Saturday 23rd of December from 4.00pm to 5.15 pm.

HOLY COMMUNION AT VIGIL MASSES. From the start of the next roster on 3rd February, Fr Jolly would like to only have three Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion rostered at each Vigil Mass. This means we will need to re-arrange these rosters from this date. So that we know your intentions, please indicate in a call or email the parish office your commitment to being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at the Vigil Masses in the next roster. We will only roster those who commit to this roster by **10th January**. There are lots of vacancies at the 9:30am Mass so you can transfer to that roster if you wish. Thank you.

2018 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS.

Franciscan and Columban 2018 Calendars are now available at the Wardens' table for the modest price of \$6 Franciscan and \$9 Columban. The Franciscan Calendars have the School Term Holidays.

BLUE MOUNTAINS WELCOME FOR THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMS!

Are you in the mountains from January 2 to January 8, 2018? If so, we'd love you to embrace the spirit of the Christmas season by welcoming the Epiphany pilgrims as they complete their 110km pilgrimage from Emu Plains to Bell. You can be involved by: Joining the pilgrims for one or more day walks (register at www.epiphanypilgrimage.org) Welcoming the pilgrims at St Finbars Parish on January 2 (and all the parishes along the way) by joining them for: praise + worship, catechesis and Adoration @ 6pm dinner @ 7.30pm (RSVP for dinner required for catering purposes: www.epiphanypilgrimage.org). If you are able to assist with catering please contact epiphanypilgrimage@gmail.com) morning Mass at 7.30am (note that the Commissioning and Final Mass times differ – see www.epiphanypilgrimage.org for the full itinerary). Writing a prayer intention for the group to pray each evening (visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org or use the orange box at the entry to the church)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Margaret Egan (Norbert Egan's wife), Stephen Hutchins, Marjory Etherington, Terence McGrath, Anne Bell, Jack Mullane (John's Father), Iris Davies, Lynette Fernandes (Ahyiesha D'Souza Mum), Cliff McHardy, Stan Currey, Tony Visser and Baby Valentina Twyford.

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, 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, Mary Cockburn (Catherine Beattie's Mother) and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Venita Bronlow, Phyllis Helm, Brian Jenkins, Monica Keating, Angela Hector and Shirley Tregillgas.

We value cost and care as much as you do



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*"To have,
to love,
and then to
part is the..."*



*...saddest
journey of
the human
heart"*

**LEURA MEMORIAL
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ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS



DON'T MISS THE CONCERT ON SUNDAY EVENING

Music and Readings for Christmas is a concert unique to St. Finbar's and we are proud to invite the whole community to celebrate with us. Hear the story told through the Scriptures and rejoice in heartfelt song with organ, harp and brass. **This Sunday evening at 7.30pm. Enq. 4754 1780**

FUN SINGERS

Monday 18th Dec 9 am, 2017 followed with Lunch at Glenbrook Panthers Bowling Club 12. MD to celebrate another successful year.

Please bring your Red Christmas Folder and dress in bright Christmas gear. Marie

NO HOSPITALITY

on Sunday the 24th of December and Sunday the 31st of December after the 9.30am Mass.

INCENSE ON MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS MASS.

Please note that Father Jolly will be using Incense on Christmas Midnight Mass only.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will shortly release its final findings on public hearings, and its recommendations, related to the Catholic Church in Australia. The Diocese of Parramatta once again offers its unreserved and deepest apologies to those many people who have suffered because of the child sexual abuse that has occurred in the context of Church ministry. In particular, the Diocese of Parramatta apologises to survivors of abuse and their families for the hurt and suffering this abuse has caused throughout their lives. During the Royal Commission, the Diocese of Parramatta has strived to engage in their processes with openness, transparency and a commitment to learning about our history so that our child protection policies and procedures are strengthened and there is restored confidence in Church ministry. The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit www.safeguarding.org.au. For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website: www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on (02) 8838 3419. Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on 131 444.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY VIGIL 30 DECEMBER 2017

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite families and youth (aged 18-35) to join us for a Celebration Vigil for Feast of the Holy Family on Saturday 30 December at 2:30 pm. Pizza from 5:30pm.

116-132 Quakers Road, 2148 Marayong NSW. Please RSVP to Sr Paula by 28 December on vocationscsfn@gmail.com or 0449 656 406

POSITIONS VACANT

Youth Minister - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill.

Accounts Officer - Chancery Office, Parramatta.

More details at: www.parracatholic.org/employment

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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 23 & 24 DECEMBER 2017

A SEPARATE ROSTER WILL BE ISSUED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Liturgical Ministries	5.30 pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Marie Hurley	Rodney Moffitt	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Junior Server	Riley Farrell		Anna Santoro & Mitchell Mathew
Warden	Reg Moore	Rodney Moffitt	Gary Clune
Welcomer	Nora Cordoba		Erika McNay
1 st Reading	Beth Culliver	Margaret Dickson	Steve Newton
2 nd Reading	Maureen Tulk	Rodney Moffitt	Patricia Munane
Intercession	Jacqui Visser	Kevin Flynn	Joanne Stubbs
IT Operator	Kylie Mills	Andrew Teece	Joseph Marceau
Music	Te Deum		Holy Light
Presentation of the Gifts	Noreen Taylor & Janice Smith	Ann & Ray Keating	Gott Family
Minister of Communion	Julie Fehon Vince Dobson Georgina Barisic Lorraine Brown Allan Jones Volunteer Please Volunteer Please	Terry Madden Rodney Moffitt Volunteer Please Volunteer Please	Leesa Gillard Mila Svehla Elizabeth Rowe Greg Rowe Avril Llewellyn Todd Stanford Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Cashier	Margaret Christensen & Ruth Gott		
Hospitality	No Hospitality on the 24th of December		
Church Care	Noreen Tylor, Erika McNay, Margaret & Ian Dickson, Heather & Steve Lee		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	No Piety Stall		
Garden Club	Tony Doyle, Neil Evans & Helen Keogh		



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