



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR C

1ST & 2ND DECEMBER 2018

Jer 33:14-16; Ps 24; 1 Thess 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28,34-36

Sunday 2nd December <i>1st Sunday of Advent - Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm Senior Youth Group	<h2>Reflection on the Gospel</h2> <div> <p>Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of societies and nations cry out for Our Lord Jesus Christ to come again right now and rescue us right now. In some instances we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day nor the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory. This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert. In the meantime each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. Each time we exhaust ourselves heroically loving someone whom others might abandon, each time we take a risk because we cry out against injustice, and in a myriad other ways, we signal that the Kingdom is already being established on earth. We could pause for a moment to pray for the strength to be on high alert for the opportunities to translate the legacy of Jesus into our own time and place, thus giving reasons to each other for our faith and hope that Christ <i>has</i> come, Christ <i>is</i> risen, Christ <i>will</i> come again. <i>Fr Michael Tate</i></p> </div> <div> <p>THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT:</p> <h1>HOPE</h1> </div>
Monday 3rd December <i>St. Francis Xavier</i>	9.00am Mass	
Tuesday 4th December	9.00am Mass 10:30am Ron Aussel Funeral Mass 7.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting	
Wednesday 5th December	8.00am Mass followed by Rosary. 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Christmas Choir Practice (Church) 7.00pm Bridge P/C	
Thursday 6th December	9.00am Mass 1.30pm Bridge P/C 7.30pm Blue Labyrinth Dancers P/C	
Friday 7th December <i>St. Ambrose</i>	9.00am Mass + Benediction 10.30 First Friday Visits. 11.30am Cantabile Choir Practice (Church) 1.00pm Bowlers	
Saturday 8th December <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.00am Mass 4.45pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass	<p>CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. (Readings for the Vigil). Midnight Mass. (Readings for the Night). Christmas Morning 8.30am. (Readings of the Day).</p>
Sunday 9th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Baptism 1.00pm Bridge	<p>CHRISTMAS ROSTER 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</p> <p>NEW ROSTERS FOR 2019. We are in urgent need of Wardens, Sacristans, Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion for 2019 Masses. Training will be provided. If you would like to help, please contact the Parish Office on 4739 8928 or email secretary@stfinbars.org.au. Thank you.</p>

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. Our Parish lies within the Traditional Country of the Darug people— The Aboriginal Custodians of the area .

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL HELD THIS WEEKEND 1ST/2ND DECEMBER

This year Bishop Vincent is inviting our community to generously donate to Parramatta Catholic Foundation to help Catholic Care's Houses to Homes Service care for vulnerable women who are pregnant, young mothers fleeing domestic violence and dealing with homelessness and poverty. Each year Houses to Homes helps over 100 disadvantaged and abused young mums or mothers-to-be in Greater Western Sydney to gain safety, shelter, parenting and life skills and to build a better, more secure life for themselves and their children, and to find independence, improved wellbeing and joy.

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2018

Christmas Hampers. This year we will be following the format where families, groups or individuals make up and donate a full hamper, or contribute items to be included in a hamper.

Please ensure that all food items are within their expiry date

A suggested items list is available for collection at the Wardens' Table. Leave hampers or items at the Church.

Christmas Gift Tree. The Christmas Gift tree has been put up. If parishioners wish to support this activity then please take a tag from the tree or Wardens' table, purchase a gift for a child as suggested on the tag and return the wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside to under the tree.

All hampers/items and gifts will need to be left no later than Friday 14 December 2018.

Volunteers. We need helpers at 9.00am on Sat 15 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers. If you are able to assist us, please leave your name and contact details with the Wardens.

Thank you, fellow parishioners, for your generosity in making this festive season special for families in need.

2019 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS.

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

Epiphany Pilgrimage – save the dates! Once again, the parishes of the Blue Mountains Deanery will host the Epiphany Pilgrimage from 2 – 8 January 2019. We can welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by:

- Journeying with them for a day or more of walking along the route (visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org for track information and to register)
- Joining them for one or more evenings at the parishes of the Deanery for prayer, catechesis, Adoration and dinner.
- Welcoming them in a particular way when they visit our parish from 2 – 3 January
- Joining them for Mass with Bishop Vincent at the Chapel of the Magi in Bell on 8 January

To help out with the celebrations at St Finbar's, contact Matt and Lucie Twyford on 0402669153.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ron Aussel, Sarah Hurley (Dianne Pizarro's Mum), Bev Palmer, Maureen Streater (Vince Dobson's Sister), Shirley Glover, William (Bill) Waters and Patricia Flynn.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Elizabeth Ramsay (cousin of Rivas family), Sally Phoebus, Chris Paine, Mark Bates, Ryder Lopez, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Pam Clyne, Mary & Robert Keith, Josephine Teece, Ken Moore, Mary Ann Manalili, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jeff Dean, Grant Madden, Jacqui Visser, Elise Doyle, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Carmel Quilty Malone, Colleen Nolan, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Little Majella and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Frank Kroehnert, Lawrence Dunne, Thomas O'Malley, Julia Rudnicki, Ronald Lowe, Winifred Nolan, Paul Gibbeson, Carolyn Van Dyke, Phillip Moloney, Marjorie Clarke, Stephen Riddle, Stanley Lucas, Leo Hayes, John Debeck & Terence Hunt.

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LEURA MEMORIAL GARDENS FUNERALS

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

The Second Rite of Reconciliation will be held on Tuesday the 18th of December at 7.30pm. All are welcome.



ST FINBAR'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – A MAJOR OUTREACH Music and Readings for Christmas



The parish's annual *Music and Readings for Christmas*, one of St Finbar's major outreach celebrations, will take place on Sunday 16th December. As usual, the combined Warrimoo Chorale and Penrith City Choir will be joined by the Penrith Symphony Brass, soprano and tenor soloists, harp, and the splendid St Finbar's organ played by Amy Johansen. But this year will also see the first appearance at this service of the Penrith City Children's Choir, which will lead the congregation in a special version of "Away in a Manger".

In addition to favourite carols for all to sing, there will also be "Hallelujah" from Handel's immortal Messiah and "O Holy Night".

As always the Christmas Story will be read by members from Lower Mountains churches, with opening and closing prayers by Father Jolly.

The service will commence at 7.30pm although early arrival is recommended. There will be a request for donations (\$15/\$35 Families). For more information ring 4758 6067.

Musicians – we need you!

Our ministry is dwindling. In recent years we have lost more than half of our musicians to other commitments or life changes. As they have departed the musical load is increasingly being borne by fewer and fewer people and more and more Masses are without music. It has been some time since anyone new has stepped up to this ministry and yet we know that our parish is, and always has been, blessed with musical talents. We would like to invite you now to share your gifts with our community and consider establishing a choir or joining one of the music groups. We especially wish to appeal to vocalists and those who play the keyboard. Each group has a different style and theme, and we welcome you to try out with any one of us. You will be mentored and supported and you will very likely make some great friendships too. Just come to talk to anyone of the groups or contact me on 0481 841 704 or email: mhy.phillips@gmail.com. Matthew Phillips, Music coordinator.

St. Finbar's Midnight Mass Choir. Please come and join us in the celebration of the Holy Night. We welcome new participants of all ages and ability. Practices are weekly, starting from Wednesday 28th November at 7pm in the church. **Interested?** Direct enquiries to Matthew Phillips at mhy.phillips@gmail.com or 0481 841 704. Hope to see you there!

DONATIONS A big thank you to Phil Dixon from DIXONS TREE SERVICE (0413 577 817) for donating a truckload of mulch to our Church garden.

Also a big thank you to GLENBROOK PANTHERS for donating a new BBQ to the Parish

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE You will notice the beautiful quilt on display in the Narthex. It has been hand made by one of our talented parishioners. It is the prize in our Christmas raffle to raise funds for improvements to our church. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Please be generous and buy lots of tickets! The raffle will be drawn in the Narthex after 9:30am Mass on Christmas morning.

SPECIAL INSERT See the special insert in this edition of the Barra for all the feedback from the parish groups that met over the past few weeks to discuss the question "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"

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Confessions: Sat 4.45-5.15pm
Baptisms: By Appointment
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Office Hours: 9.30am - 3.00pm

Monday to Friday

Office Phone: (02) 4739 8928

Office Fax: (02) 4739 8929

Address:

52 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773
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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 8TH & 9TH DECEMBER 2018

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	John Verhoeven	Rodney Moffitt	Deb Lawrence
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Carl Moll	Andrew Duval
Junior Server	Katia Apps		Rocco Siciliano Emily Dowling Nicola De La Mare
Warden	Ken Schneiders & Chris O'Meara	Rodney Moffitt	Kylie Mills
Welcomer	Margaret Moore		Suzanne McGrath
1 st Reading	John Kileen	Ann Keating	Irene Aligno
2 nd Reading	Joe Grange	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Carmel Higgins
I.T Operator	Henry Hanko	Ellen Teece	Jim McLoughlin
Musician	M. Phillips & M. Taylor		Naomi's Group
Presentation of the Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	David & Dianne Shatford	Dorothea Walsh & Margaret Christensen
Minister of Communion	Sybil Mason Thea Robertson Brian Robertson Margaret Richards	Kath Tierney Jim Tierney Gwen Cullinan Ann Keating	Avril Llewellyn Gerard Egan Garry Pursehouse Volunteer please
Children's Liturgy	Michelle		
Cashier	Joe Grange & Lorraine Brown		
Hospitality	Anne King, Lynn Atkinson, Daren & Liz Dukes		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Youngman, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	Beth Culliver		

Annemaree Baird
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