



The Barbra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
2nd Sunday of Advent-Year A

7th & 8th December 2019

Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12. Eucharistic Prayer 2

Sunday 8th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30 am Young Families Advent Meeting M/R 11.00am Baptism 11.30am Bridge Club Christmas Party P/C	Reflection on the Gospel When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus. John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance: 'but if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit'. Rather, he suspects that they think that salvation is assured for them by virtue of being a Jew; a son of Abraham. He warns them that an axe hangs poised to cut down any part of the Jewish tradition that is failing to produce good fruit. This is a theme that is picked up later by Jesus himself; you can't be complacent about your own position, you have to welcome the new truth revealed by Jesus and give yourself wholeheartedly to God. Reflection by Greg Sunter	
Monday 9th December <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.00am Mass 9.00am Fun Singers 10.30pm Pastoral Care Meeting M/R 5.00 pm SVDP Meeting M/R 6.00pm School Christmas Concert 7.00pm Parish Discernment Working Group		
Tuesday 10th December	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice		
Wednesday 11th December	8.00am Mass followed by Rosary 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Bridge P/C		
Thursday 12th December	9.00am Mass 1.30pm Bridge P/C		
Friday 13th December <i>St. Lucy</i>	9.00am Mass + Benediction 1.00pm Bowlers P/C	SUNDAY BAPTISMS: The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Arlo Santi Michael Mintoff & Finn Francis Craig Mintoff this Sunday, and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community. 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 Warden's table. Please write your name against any one ministry vacancy that you can fill. Thank you.	
Saturday 14th December <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	9.00am Mass 10.30am Te Deum Choir practice 4.45pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass		
Sunday 15th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 10.30am Young Families Advent Meeting M/R 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C		

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 our area.

ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held on *Wednesday the 18th of December at 7.30pm*

Vigil Mass *Tuesday the 24th of December at 7.00pm*. (Readings for Vigil).

Midnight Mass. (Readings for the Night).

Christmas Day Mass 8.30am (Readings of the Day).

FUN SINGERS. Will be on *Monday the 9th of December at 9.00am instead of Monday the 16th of December.*

JESUS IS COMING...AND SO ARE THE PILGRIMS!

The Epiphany pilgrims will soon be coming our way as they journey in the spiritual footsteps of the Magi. Be part of the journey and festivities 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 a festive dinner!
- Welcoming them in a particular way when they visit our parish from 2 – 3 January
- Joining them for Mass 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

WATER TANKS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT.

The parish is considering spending a modest amount of money (less than \$10,000) to install a large water tank and pump to collect rainwater from the church roof and make it available for the gardens and other possible uses. We are also considering a smaller tank to collect water from the roof of the hall and use it for the toilets and garden. Both these projects will reduce the parish water bill and help the environment in the longer term (after it eventually rains!).

PIETY STALL. Come and check the Piety Stall for great Christmas gifts and Cards. We have new Christmas Cards Packs of 8 for \$4 each.

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA PARISH, IN PENRITH.

Is organizing a Cherry-picking trip to Orange together with the Young at Heart (over 50 s) on the 18th of December. The big Bus will leave the parish parking lot at 8 am and will be back by 5 pm on the same day. The trip will cost \$ 65.00, Including coffee and lunch at the RSL in Orange. Please call the parish office on 02 47212509 to book your seat. The cost is calculated based on the minimum total of 40 people.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Robert Carey (Ann Keating's brother), Joyce Slyney, Richard Formosa, Liam O'Sullivan (Son of Mary & Mick), George Frampton, John Parker (husband of Gwen), Tony Hickey, Brian Martland, Kathleen O'Connor, Victor Baker, Rita O'Malley, Stanley Harris and Ian McNay.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Ken Moore, Ryder Lopez, Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother), Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Pam Clyne, Mary & Robert Keith, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, Elise & Hilary Doyle, Joan Lohrey, Joanne Macrae, Maddison Farrugia, Catherine Kirk (Cameron), Sophie Hollies, Colleen Nolan, Michelle Anthony and Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Theresa Hemsley, Cornelus Van Der-Loo, Mary Bohan, Felice (Frank) Macri, Gary Dennis, Patrice O'Neill, Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens, Monica Piggott, Tamara Shervashidze, Paul Edelbrock, Elma O'Shea, Henry Brockway, Malcolm King, Monica Pigott and Coral Darr.

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ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS



MUSIC AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST FINBARS SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER AT 7.30PM



Massed Choir, Penrith Symphony Brass, Harp, Solo Artists
Amy Johansen – Organ
Robert Ampt – Conductor

*Join in congregational carols and experience the thrill of singing
Handel's Hallelujah Chorus*

with choir, organ, brass and timpani on this night of Christmas joy

Suggested donations: Families \$35, Individuals \$15

Enquiries 4754 1780

ALPHA TRAINING. Following on from the demand for the Alpha in the Catholic Context training weekend, there will be a one-day Alpha training workshop on Sunday, 9th February from 9.30am – 4.30pm. The training will be held at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown, Sunday 9th February 9.30am – 4.30pm. This Training Workshop will look at where Alpha fits in the faith formation process in a Parish and how Alpha can become an integral part of a pastoral plan to evangelise and grow missionary disciples. Please see the flyer on the noticeboard. To register, and for more information, please contact Lisa in the Pastoral Planning Office on 8838 3497 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR 2019

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to this appeal. The envelopes remain on the seats and we ask all those who were unable to contribute last weekend to please do so this weekend.

Please use an envelope and place it on either collection.

Many needy people depend on your generosity.

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019

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 the expiry date. A suggested items list is available for collection at the Warden's Table.***

Christmas Gift Tree

The Christmas Gift tree will be put up during the week commencing 25 November and 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. All hampers/items and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than **Friday 13 December 2019.**

Volunteers

We will need helpers at 9.00am on Saturday 14 December to assist with the delivery of the hampers. If you are able to assist us with this task please leave your name and contact details with the wardens or send a SMS message to 0413 549 518.

Poor Box Donations

All donations to the Poor Box till the end of December will count towards our Christmas Appeal. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will support our work over the Christmas period and into 2020. If you want to make a larger donation and require a receipt for taxation purposes please contact Vince Dobson personally or through the Parish Office.

Thank you, fellow parishioners, for your generosity in helping to make this festive season special for families in need this Christmas.



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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:

52 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 Robyn Clarke

Phone: 4724 3600

ROSTER FOR 14TH & 15TH DECEMBER 2019

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Server	Joshua Toutounji & Dominic Scanlan		Andy Rogers & Ann & Alex Walker
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
Welcomer	Paul Etherington		Peter & Trish Hurley
1 st Reading	Maire Griffin	Maura Williams	Peter or Trish Hurley
2 nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Geraldine Lohan	Gary Clune
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John De Mattia	Frank Fitzpatrick
I.T Operator	Thais Turner	Robyn Flynn	Joanne Stubbs
Musician	Cantabile		
Presentation of the Gifts	Chris & Sandra O'Meara	Kay Whitty	Kathleen Schneiders & Family
Minister of Communion	Marie Hurley Pat Barrett Gwen Cullinan Bernie Fisher	Terry Keogh Helen Keogh Jean Di Nucci Volunteer Please	Therese Luczak Annisia Nilsson Irene Aligno Carmel Higgins
Children's Liturgy	Danielle		
Cashier	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Maggie Trevena, Irene & Bert Aligno		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Youngman, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	Lee Jackson & Louise Heber		

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