



# The BARRA

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook  
3rd Sunday of Advent-Year A

14th & 15th December 2019

Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Ps 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11. Eucharistic Prayer 2

<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>15th December</b></p> <p><i>3rd Sunday of Advent Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 10.30 am Young Families Advent Meeting M/R 1.30pm Bridge Club P/C</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reflection on the Gospel</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus. The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'</p> <p>The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Reflection by Greg Sunter</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> </div>
<p><b>Monday</b> <b>16th December</b></p>	<p><b>9.15am Year 6 Graduation Mass</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>17th December</b></p>	<p><b>9.00am Mass</b> 6.00pm Cantabile Choir Practice 7.30pm Parish Finance Committee Meeting</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>18th December</b></p>	<p><b>8.00am Mass followed by Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 12.00pm Denis (Mick) O'Sullivan Funeral. 7.00pm Bridge P/C <b>7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation</b></p>	
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>19th December</b></p>	<p><b>9.00am Mass</b> 1.30pm Bridge P/C 7.30pm Concert Rehearsal</p>	
<p><b>Friday</b> <b>20th December</b></p>	<p><b>9.00am Mass + Benediction</b> 1.00pm Bowlers P/C 4.00pm Concert Rehearsal</p>	
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>21st December</b></p>	<p><b>9.00am Mass</b> 10.30am Te Deum Choir practice <b>4.45pm Confessions</b> <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p>	
<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>22nd December</b></p> <p><i>4th Sunday of Advent Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> 10.30am Young Families Advent Meeting M/R 7.30pm Music and Reading for Christmas Concert.</p>	<p><b><u>CHRISTMAS ROSTER.</u></b> 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.</p> <p><b><u>CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ROLE.</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Liturgy Committee invites all the children to attend the 7pm Christmas Eve Mass and, if they like, to come dressed up as an angel or a shepherd.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

*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).

## THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMS AT ST FINBARS

Be part of the journey of the Epiphany pilgrims when they visit St Finbar's from 2 – 3 January.

2 January 2020

11.15am: Depart Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains for Day 1 of walking  
 4.00pm: Arrive at St Finbar's, Glenbrook  
 4.30pm: Self-care (first aid) information session  
 6.00pm: Prayer, catechesis, Adoration and Benediction in the church  
 7.30pm: Parish Dinner  
 9.30pm: Evening Prayer

3 January 2020

7.00am: Morning Mass  
 8.00am: Depart St Finbar's, Glenbrook for Day 2 of walking

Note that due to the nature of bushwalking, delays can occur which may alter these times.

To follow the journey and for regular updates visit: <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>. For a full itinerary visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org).



*Denis (Mick) O'Sullivan passed away on Tuesday Morning. His funeral will be held at St. Finbar's on Wednesday the 18th of December at 12.00pm. Please keep his wife Mary and daughters Julie and Michele in your prayers.*

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 22 December 2019

We have an amazing lineup of inspiration for you before Christmas this week! We hear an amazing reflection from the Gospel from Fr Chris Pietraszko. Go to [WWW.jcr.org.au](http://WWW.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free. If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you'd like to hear it broadcast locally each week.

**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.

**2020 Religious calendars are now available at the wardens' table. \$6 Franciscan and \$9 Columban.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Hilary Doyle, Denis (Mick) O'Sullivan, Robert Carey (Ann Keating's brother), Joyce Slyney, Richard Formosa, Liam O'Sullivan, 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 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:

Ann Lowe, Stephen Schaefer, Mark Broomhead, James Gapps, Marjorie Doyle, Margaret Gibson, Venita Bronlow, Phyllis Helm, Brian Jinkins, Monica Keating and Geoffrey Shalala.

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# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS



## MUSIC AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST FINBARS SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

### DESPERATELY SEEKING ASSISTANCE

Preparation for such a huge and popular parish and community event like our Christmas concert requires an enormous amount of physical work. The Organ and Concert Committee is very few in numbers and we are desperately appealing to parishioners for assistance in the following areas:

- ✦ Bringing chairs over from the hall after the 5.30 Mass on the day before the concert.
- ✦ Setting out the chairs after 9.30 Mass on the day of the concert. Help would be needed around 10.30am.
- ✦ Returning the equipment used after the concert to where they belong.
- ✦ General assistance after the concert in closing windows, etc. and restoring the church to order.

If you can help please write your name and contact number on the clipboard on the Warden's table. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

### MUSICIAN IS NEEDED FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 9.30AM MASS.

Dawn Willis is looking for an Organist or a Pianist or Strings group (i.e. violin viola cello) not guitar. A student of the piano and strings in the high grades, can use the experience as they progress in their music studies as well can be great help. If you can help please contact Dawn Willis ASAP on 0419 564 323. Thank you

### DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

#### Positions Vacant:

- Facilities Maintenance Officer - Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 16 December**
- Volunteers – Mamre Creche - CatholicCare

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

#### Office for Worship Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

The Office for Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held again next year, commencing early February 2020. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 8838 3456 or [anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org](mailto:anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org)

#### Upper Blue Mountains Parish Santo Niño celebrations: 19 January

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish in the Upper Blue Mountains is celebrating the feast of Santo Niño at St Canice's Church, Katoomba. Mass will be held on Sunday 19 January at 12pm, with refreshments served afterwards. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 4782 2804 or [mmparishubm@gmail.com](mailto:mmparishubm@gmail.com)

#### Annual Red Mass: 28 January

Bishop Vincent Long and Fr Bob Bossini warmly invite members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass on 28 January at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served after Mass. Confirm attendance and any dietary requirements by 20 January to (02) 8839 8411 or [events@stpatrcathedral.com.au](mailto:events@stpatrcathedral.com.au).

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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 21ST & 22ND DECEMBER 2019

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Peter McMahon	Stephen Brown
Junior Server	Riley Farrell & Ethan Cameron		Keira Vermaak & Nicola De La Mare
Warden	Huia Kingi	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
Welcomer	Nora Cordoba		Erika McNay
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Beth Culliver	Mary Creenaune	Patricia Murnane
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Joe Grange	Margaret Dickson	Greg Rowe
Intercession	Volunteer Please	Kevin Flynn	Elizabeth Rowe
I.T Operator	Robyn Flynn	Jemmy Brickwood	Joseph Marceau
Musician	Te Deum		Holy Light
Presentation of the Gifts	Margaret Moore & Jan de Bie	Ann & Ray Keating	Tom Torrance
Minister of Communion	Vince Dobson Noreen Taylor Lorraine Brown Allan Jones	Terry Madden Ann Keating Jean Di Nucci Jessica Tiller	Mila Svehla Elizabeth Rowe Greg Rowe Todd Stanford
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Cashier	Margaret Christensen & Joe Grange		
Hospitality	Marie Nassif, Kerry & Peter Herborn		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie, Jessica Doherty & Eileen Jones		
Piety Stall at 9.30am Mass	Ann Marie King		
Garden Club	Tony Doyle, Neil Evans & Helen Keogh		

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