



The Barra

Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
14th & 15th November 2020

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 127; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

This Sunday St. Finbar's Parish Community would like to warmly welcome Father Joseph Lam, our new Parish Priest, to our Parish and wish him all the best.

Sunday 15th November <i>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Baptisms 6.00pm Youth Mass 7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group	<p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>"Gruss Gott" ("Greetings in the Lord") – this salute is a daily routine in Bavaria (Germany) where I grew up as an infant. The greeting expresses our optimism and hope in God 'who is ever ancient and yet ever new' Saint Augustine once said in his monumental work "Confessions". Perhaps, you have heard of Augustine of Hippo (354-430 CE) who lived in very tumultuous world. When Augustine lay dying in Hippo, Augustine's concerns were not only on intellectual battles with heretics, but also for the physical safety of the local citizens, because Hippo was then besieged by an army of Vandals who were a Germanic people from the area south of the Baltic Sea. Yet Augustine never lost his faith the goodness of God. So, he wrote with great confidence: 'From this hen upon earth there is no escape, save through the grace of the Saviour Christ, our God and Lord.' (The City of God, XXII, 22).</p> <p>As we are approaching the end of the liturgical year, let us pause for a reflective moment. Our present global situation is filled with calamities. The pandemic has caused pains to many families and individuals. Places of worship have been closed or put under restrictions. Dissension, division, and violence seem to govern the thoughts and actions of political parties, including the "parties" in our Church. It appears that the hope in human goodness has vanished, let alone the hope in God. What about then the question Jesus addressed to his followers: 'However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?' (Luke 18:8).</p> <p>Faith is journey of hope in the goodness of God. Let us journey together as a Faith community. I would like to echo the wise and inspiring words of Vatican II: 'The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community composed of men. United in Christ, they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the Kingdom of their Father and they have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man. That is why this community realizes that it is truly linked with mankind and its history by the deepest of bonds.' (<i>Gaudium et Spes</i>, no. 1)</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to walk and to share with you the Faith and Hope in Christ...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Fr. Joseph Lam</p>
Monday 16th November	No Morning Mass	
Tuesday 17th November <i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary</i>	9.00am Mass 10.30am Timeout Tuesday P/C 11.00am Mikaela Au Funeral Mass 7.00pm Combined Parish Council & Finance Committee Meeting P/C	
Wednesday 18th November	9.00am Mass 9.30am Playgroup P/C	
Thursday 19th November	9.00am Mass 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C	
Friday 20th November	9.00 Mass 1.00pm Bowlers 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice	
Saturday 21st November <i>The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.00am Mass 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 3.00pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R 4.45pm Confession 5.30pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 22nd November <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</i>	7.30am Mass 9.30am Mass	

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.

SUNDAY BAPTISMS:

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of Jacob Vincent Johnson and Vincent Wolfe Morson who are going to be Baptised this Sunday and warmly welcomes them into our Faith Community.



ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is generally used as an encouragement to make the most of the gifts and skills that the listeners possess. It is rarely placed in its context as part of the full Ch 25 lesson about the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord and the Christian life. Again, the story is presented as a glimpse into the right order of things in the realised Kingdom. A very wealthy master entrusts his considerable assets to his servants to manage in his absence. The three servants were allocated money, 'each in proportion to his ability'. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master's place to further develop his wealth. Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. This parable is used to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.

Your talent is
God's gift to you
What you do
with it
is your gift
back to God

Reflection by Greg Sunter

WORK SITE: Please do not enter the work site which is being established near the church for the building of the Columbarium. This could compromise your safety and possibly that of the bricklayers.

PARISH HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

- ♦ We welcome **Fr Joe** as he settles in and takes up residence as our new Parish Priest. Please introduce yourselves and your families to him after Mass and make him instantly feel part of our Christian community. He is having to work hard on his first weekend with four Masses, Baptisms and Youth Group. Next week he will meet with members of the Parish Advisory Council and the Parish Finance Committee. Later in the week he will visit the school to meet all the staff and students, and then later again he will meet with the Liturgy Committee!
- ♦ Long time parishioner **Marie Hurley** turned 90 years of age during the week. She received a Papal Blessing for all her good work. I am sure we all want to wish her a very happy birthday and good health.
- ♦ The next **TIMEOUT TUESDAY** gathering will be held next Tuesday, 17th November at 10am. This will be the last one for 2020, and you are all invited to enjoy a Christmas spirit! There will be door prizes and Christmas items for sale, and of course a delicious Christmas Morning Tea. Blessings to all.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mikaela Au, Chiqui Trujillo (Carl Moll's brother in law), Tricia McQuade (Jan Smith's cousin), Jeanette Rogers (Martin Rogers' mother), Agnes (Pauline) Auckett, Michael Taylor, Dunata Ryan, Rita Cloran and Maureen Hobbs.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:

Laurie Rivas, Christine McGillion, Margaret Christensen, Angela Dengate (Jim Pope's daughter), Adam Carlyon (Theresa Luczak's Son in Law), Ryder Lopez, Rev. Max Barrett (CSSR) (Jim Barrett's Brother), Joan Paine, Mark Bates, Lyn Downes, Reg Moore, Pam Clyne, Ellen Moffitt, Terry Stevens, Jacqui Visser, 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:

Amy Mood, Brenda Amaral, John Howling, Kathleen Roberts, Marjorie Fitzgibbons, Sheila Hammerton, Beverley Pembroke, Mary McGee, Kevin Sharp, George Tinning, Lillian Mitchell, Julie Stone, Betty Chapman and Joseph Redler.

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DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES

INSTITUTE FOR MISSION SATURDAY SESSIONS

You are invited! Sessions: 11am-12:15 pm via Zoom.

Sharing faith with a community online.

Enjoy a video or reading preparation before the session and then join in discussion online – where we can grow and share in faith. Register for the upcoming sessions:

14th November: Sr Julie Upton RSM & ACU: Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics <https://tinyurl.com/saturdaysessionsnov14>

Revisit earlier Sessions at the www.thewell.org.au and form your own group within your community.

Email Lisa.Bright@parracatholic.org to join Saturday Sessions mailing list.

MEET OUR PLENARY DELEGATES

You are warmly invited to attend the **Reignite the Flame of Plenary Council Reflection & Action Session** | being held on **Saturday, 14th November from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm via ZOOM.**

During this session you will **meet two of our Plenary Council delegates:** Wendy Goonan (Northern Deanery Pastoral Council Chair) and Carol Teodori-Blahut (Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council Chair).

We will also be joined by some community members with particular expertise and experience in the Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal theme and they will share some of the **good news** happening around this Theme in our Diocese.

The Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal full version Thematic Paper can be accessed at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-2.pdf>

Saturday, 14th November at 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm via ZOOM

Register at https://dioceseofparramatta.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUqfuupqTtiGNSJl_ZzOIPpH8y9xDxsi89O

BISHOP'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This appeal will be happening in the next few weeks when we get more information from the Bishop's office. It is timely to remember that, although we think we have had it tough in 2020, there are a lot of people worse off than we are. You are invited to give generously to this appeal.

DIOCESAN ACTIVITIES

- ♦ CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains services remain open via phone, video conferencing/telehealth and online. To make a referral, call (02) 8843 2500 (Mon-Thu 8.30am-8pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm), email – enquiries@ccss.org.au or visit ccss.org.au
- ♦ The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta remains open and committed to assisting anyone who has questions regarding marriage annulments. Please direct all enquires to the Tribunal office on 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org. The office is open Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.
- ♦ Couples considering a call to the Permanent Diaconate are invited to attend an information session on Saturday 12 December from 10am to 12noon at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown. To RSVP, please contact Deacon Willy Limjap on 0428 332 619 or wlimjap@gmail.com or Deacon George Bryan on 0408 440 769 or George.Bryan@parracatholic.org
- ♦ St Mary's Retreat Centre in Douglas Park, NSW, has re-commenced its 2020 retreat program. A range of six-day retreats running until January 2021 have spaces available. For more information on the available retreats, please contact contact@towersretreat.org.au, or <https://www.towersretreat.org.au/> or phone the centre on (02) 4630 0233.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS. Mass will be followed by prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr. Hugh Thomas CSsR, Sunday 22 November 2020, 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Cnr. Mamre Rd & Swanston St, St Marys. All welcome! Please register by texting 0410 475 734 and provide your Name and Phone Number for COVID.

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PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Lam OSA
E-mail: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org
Phone: 0490 148 387

Address:
 52 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773
 P.O. Box 123 Glenbrook NSW 2773

Secretary: Juliana Khnouf
E-mail: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

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

Admin: Peter McMahon
E-mail: glenbrook@parracatholic.org
Phone: 0404 010 997

Web: www.stfinbars.org.au

Office Hours: 9.30am - 3.00pm
 Monday to Friday
 (02) 4739 8928

Parish School: Principal Mrs Robyn Clarke
Phone: 4724 3600

ROSTER FOR 21ST & 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Senior Server	Ahyiesha D'Souza	Carl Moll	Stephen Brown
Junior Server	Ethan Cameron		Keira Vermaak & Nicola De La Mare
Warden	Huia Kingi	Volunteer Please	Gary Clune
1 st Reading	Eileen Jones	Leanne Brown	Avril Llewellyn
2 nd Reading	Philomena Watkins	Volunteer Please	Michelle Wilson
Intercession	Katy Ferris	Elizabeth Konza	Yvonne Scanlan
IT Operators	Pat Watson	Terry Keogh	Joanne Stubbs
Cashiers	Margaret Christensen & Joe Grange		
Church Care	Julie Fehon Janette Ankers, Lynda Favell		
Garden Club	Lukas Rajnoch, Andrew Howard, Stuart Sheary & Daniel Lynch		



Masses for the Holy Souls: During the month of November *Aid to the Church in Need* is encouraging the faithful to arrange Masses on behalf of loved ones and for the souls that have nobody to pray for them. Find out more: www.aidtochurch.org/november

Gifts of Faith: A Gift of Faith is a Christmas present given in place of a material gift. You can arrange multiple Gifts of Faith for children, grandchildren, godchildren, siblings, cousins, co-workers, friends and parishioners. Find out more: www.thatcatholicshop.com/giftsofffaith



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