



# The Barra

**Weekly Newsletter of St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B**  
**5th & 6th December 2020**

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Ps 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

<b>Sunday</b> <b>6th December</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent Year B</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b> 7.00pm "The Lounge" Senior Youth Group P/C	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fr Joe's Musings</b></p> <p>Will Christmas Be Different?          "COVID has changed forever the way we live daily life. Everything will be different!" – this jargon has now entered into our daily language. It is also used to justify various decisions and measurements that clearly would impact our lives. When it comes to worship, I cannot fail to notice a disproportion. Political leaders appeared to have prioritised economic benefits over spiritual needs. There is no evidence that religious worship causes a greater risk of transmission!          I wonder whether COVID 19 will also change the way God loves us. Throughout the global history of pandemic, God remains close to those who put their trust in HIM. God will come to us because nothing can separate us from HIM. The first reading speaks of God's comfort that He brings to His people in desolation: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." Hence, nothing will change from the perspective God! Nothing will be different from God's point of view!          While the virus may mutate, God's charity does not mutate! As God is steadfast, so let us be unwavering in the practice of charity: "The Steadfast Love of the Lord is not Seasonal; His Mercies do not have winter or summer days... They are new every now and then." Hence, the Gospel of this Sunday reminds of the Good News of Christ's coming.          In his Christmas' message, Bishop Vincent encourages us to reach out to the vulnerable. He said: "As Catholics, I believe it is our duty to actively reach out to the most vulnerable and show this compassionate face of Christ to all." Bishop Vincent retold the story of Sharen and Dale who were determined not to be forced to give up their child, turned to CatholicCare. They were supported by Project Elizabeth, a service that helps women and families who are expecting, or have just had babies, with ongoing counselling, practical parenting groups and parenting strategies sessions.          In his Christmas' appeal, Bishop Vincent counts on our help to provide the emotional and practical support that will enable our brothers and sisters in Christ to live their potential, in a true spirit of hope.          On behalf of all young parents, I am also counting on your kindness and compassion. Please help the Catholic Foundation to make a difference in the life of the vulnerable. This way, Christmas won't be different at all!          Thank you and God bless you all</p>
<b>Monday</b> <b>7th December</b> <i>St. Ambrose</i>	<b>No Mass</b> 5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R 6.00pm School Christmas Concert P/C	
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>8th December</b> <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> 10.30am Pastoral Care Meeting M/R	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>9th December</b>	<b>9.00am Mass + Rosary</b> 9.30am Playgroup P/C 7.00pm Wedding Rehearsal 7.30pm Columbarium Meeting M/R	
<b>Thursday</b> <b>10th December</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> 7.30pm Blue Mountains Folk Dance P/C	
<b>Friday</b> <b>11th December</b>	<b>9.00 Mass</b> 1.00pm Bowlers 2.00pm Wedding 5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice	
<b>Saturday</b> <b>12th December</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> 11.30am Te Deum Choir Practice 3.00pm Liturgy Committee Meeting M/R <b>4.45pm Confession</b> <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	
<b>Sunday</b> <b>13th December</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent Year B</i>	<b>7.30am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>10.30am Baptisms</b>	<p><b>Fr. Joseph</b></p>
<p><b>CHRISTMAS ROSTER.</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 notice board in the Narthex near the Warden's table. Please write your name against any one ministry vacancy that you can fill. Thank you for all your help and support.</p>		<p><b>CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:</b>          2nd Rite of reconciliation will be held on <b>Wednesday the 16th December at 7.30pm</b>          Vigil Mass <b>Thursday the 24th of December at 7.00pm</b> (Readings for Vigil).          Midnight Mass. (Readings for the Night).          Christmas Day Mass 8.30am (Readings of the Day).</p> <p><i><b>WELCOME</b> 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.</i></p>

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## **CHRISTMAS BIBLICAL REFLECTION "CHRISTMAS: FOLKTALE OR TRUTH?"**

Some people think that the nativity story being an obviously religious story is neither historically nor scientifically accurate. Is it so? How did the authors of the Four Gospels and Paul see the birth of Jesus? Come and explore the biblical-theological dimension of the Nativity.

Where: St Finbar Parish Hall, Glenbrook

When: 17 December 2020, at 7.30pm

Who: Fr Joseph Lam, PhD STD

Due to COVID restrictions the number of attendances will be limited. Please pre-register your attendance with the parish office on 47398928!

## **SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020—Christmas Hampers**

Christmas Hampers will need to follow COVID-Safe controls this year:

- ◆ This year we are seeking the donation of complete hampers by each donor to minimise handling.
- ◆ Please wipe each item with an antibacterial cloth before placing in one or two shopping bags.
- ◆ 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 has been put up, and if parishioners wish to support this activity then please purchase a gift for a child and add a and return the wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside.

**All hampers and gifts will need to be left at the church no later than Thursday 17 December 2020.**

## **Volunteers**

We will need helpers at 9.30am on Saturday 19 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. Masks and gloves are needed for this task.

## **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 2021. 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 a family put food on the table this Christmas.

## **Covid19**

While NSW has recorded no locally acquired case of COVID in the last 24 days, the Premier reminds us that the infection could still occur if we neglect the advice by the health authorities. Hence, could I kindly ask you to maintain the required social distance of 1.5 sq meters, to use hand sanitizer and to wipe the pews after the mass. It is our Christian responsibility to keep each other safe.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Beatrice Doughty (Erika McNay's sister), Margaret Garvan, Mikaela Au, Chiqui Trujillo (Carl Moll's brother in law), Tricia McQuade (Jan Smith's cousin), Jeanette Rogers (Martin Rogers' mother) and Michael Taylor.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:**

Karen Bishop, Michael McMahon (Peter's brother), 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:**

Marjorie Clarke, Stephen Riddle, Stanley Lucas, Leo Hayes, John Debeck, Terence Hunt, Theresa Hemsley, Cornelius Van Der-Loo, Mary Bohan, Felice Macri, Gary Dennis, Patrice O'Neill, Fredericke Vinzenz, Doreen Egan, Maria Toirkens, Thomas Hitchens, Monica Piggott, Frank Culliver and Tamara Shervashiadze.

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## PARISH NOTICES

### St Finbar's Tap 'n Go Terminals:

**Location:** On the pedestals just before the entry doors into the main part of the church.

*Do you find yourself not carrying cash so that you can't donate to our financial collection system?*

*Are you using your credit or debit card instead of carrying cash?*

*We invite you to donate to the upkeep of our church and parish ministries by using our Tap 'n Go Terminals!*

*This does NOT replace the Second Collection Envelope System, nor the facility to make regular or occasional contributions via your credit card or debit card facility on the Parish's website. All these methods WILL CONTINUE! Tap 'n Go is just an extra way for people to contribute without the need for cash.*

**Its usage covers both the first and second collections.**



**The money will be allocated between the 2 collections in proportion to what is usually received.**

**Each tap of your card = \$5 donation. Tap twice if you want to donate \$10, 3 times for \$15 and so on.....The tapping function is: instantaneous – no waiting**

**SECURE**

**No receipt – it will be itemised on your bank statements, Available 7 days per week**

**You may use the machine upon your entry or after mass or whenever you may visit the church.**

This facility has been arranged through the Parramatta Diocese. The service provider is the Commonwealth Bank. The Wi-Fi service is via Optus.

With good wishes from Fr. Joe and the St Finbar's Finance Committee

- On behalf of St. Finbar I would like to congratulate Gideon on his latest book with the title "Clericalism: Stories from the Pews". A book launch is organised for 10th December at 7.30pm. Coventry Press invites you to the zoom book launch of *Clericalism: Stories from the Pews*, by Gideon Goosen, on 10th Dec 7.30pm. Register on: [enquiries@coventrypress.com.au](mailto:enquiries@coventrypress.com.au)
- Stay ALERT: Fr. Jolly's** email account has been hacked. Please do not reply to any email that appears with Fr. Jolly's account and in which you are asked for financial assistance. The diocese has also informed us that you do not reply to this suspicious email: [diocese.parramatta@gmail.com](mailto:diocese.parramatta@gmail.com) requesting more information from the recipient.

### FOOD DRIVE FOR REFUGEES THROUGH THE ST FRANCIS HOUSE OF WELCOME, GRANVILLE Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December (2 weeks)

<p><b>FOOD REQUIRED à</b></p>	<p>Cooking Oil Basmati rice Flour/Sugar Long life (UHT) milk Canned Tomatoes Chickpeas Lentils Canned fruit Tinned fish (tuna in oil)</p>	<p>Instant noodles Tea &amp; Coffee Cooking Spices Jams &amp; Honey Breakfast cereal Biscuits (savory and sweet) <i>(Please no baked beans, soup, beetroot or tinned spaghetti!)</i></p>
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#### *Can you help please?*

*The House of Welcome exists to welcome, shelter and empower people seeking asylum and refugees regardless of their age, gender, sexuality, nationality or religion. It provides client-centred holistic supports that nurture hope, advocate for justice and promote self-reliance, whilst acknowledging the dignity and the rights of each individual person.*

#### **Donations can be left at:**

St Finbar's Church, Levy Street Glenbrook at the office or inside the church door in the collection box *or* directly to Patricia and Kieran Murnane, 19 Hare Street, Glenbrook ph:47394688 – front veranda.

All donations will be delivered by the Murnanes to the House of Welcome at Granville after 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you for your kindness.

### Bateman Battersby LAWYERS

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- |                   |                     |
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**[www.batemanbattersby.com.au](http://www.batemanbattersby.com.au)**

**[Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au](mailto:Enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au)**

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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  
 PO 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  
 Tuesday to Friday  
**Office Phone:** (02) 4739 8928

**Parish School:** Principal Mrs Robyn Clarke  
**Phone:** 4724 3600

## ROSTER FOR 12TH & 13TH DECEMBER 2020

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Deb Lawrence
Senior Server	Anaru Veitch	Peter McMahon	Gary Pursehouse
Junior Server	Alex & Johnny McLoughlin	Joshua & Lucy Toutounji	Emily Dowling & Sophie McDonald
Warden	Ken Schneiders	Volunteer Please	Patricia Murnane
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Eileen Jones	Volunteer Please	Irene Aligno
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Volunteer Please	Elizabeth Konza	Kristina Rajnoch
Intercession	Dawn Willis	John Isaksen	Yvonne Scanlan
IT Operators	Eleanor Thompson	Robyn Flynn	Joseph Marceau
Cashiers	Bernadette Shalala & Erika McNay		
Church Care	Jeannine Ashbee, Deb Youngman, Leesa & Wayne Gillard		

### **WANTED: LOVING MARRIED COUPLES. Become a Sponsor couple**

SmartLoving is a Catholic marriage ministry and is calling for enthusiastic married couples to journey with an engaged couple as they prepare to be married in the Catholic Church. Find out more at this free information session: Wed, 9 December - 8pm AEDT | [www.smartloving.org/webinar](http://www.smartloving.org/webinar)

**Piety Stall Re-opens.** Our parish piety stall has re-opened, and just in time for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Because of the need to make sure we comply with the COVID-19 restrictions, the Wardens' table still needs to be positioned at the entrance door to encourage all parishioners to sign in. Therefore the Piety Stall cannot be in its usual spot, and instead will be located in the church kitchen. Please come in and buy all your Christmas cards at very reasonable prices, and maybe also a Christmas gift or two. Noreen 4739 8882

### **BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL.**

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal will be conducted in our parish on this weekend the Second Sunday of Advent. It is an important opportunity for us to actively reach out to the most vulnerable, and to show the compassionate face of Christ to all. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please come prepared to give generously to this appeal



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